Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-121 *26 June 1989*

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Honduras, Costa Rica Agree To Summit 14-17 July
PA2306181689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1731 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 23 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—It was reported today that Honduran President Jose Azcona and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias have agreed to postpone the next Central American summit. The summit was scheduled for 7-9 July but is now slated for 14-17 July.

A presidential spokesman in Tegucigalpa told ACAN-EFE that Arias called Azcona by telephone on 21 June to request that the Central American summit—which will be held in Tela, on the Caribbean coast of Honduras—be postponed a week.

Azcona immediately agreed to Arias' request and will wait for Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to announce if they agree with the new dates, the source added.

The same source disclosed that Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has already contacted Azcona and said he agrees with postponing the Central American summit. [passage omitted]

Socialist Congressmen Hold Inaugural Meeting
PY2406163889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0228 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Montevideo, 23 Jun (EFE)—The first meeting of Latin American Socialist Party congressmen began here today. They will analyze regional problems and will cooperate to solve them.

The meeting, which will end on 25 June, is being sponsored by the Uruguayan Socialist Party (PS) and by the Latin American Socialist Coordinating Board (CSL), whose secretary is the Uruguayan Deputy Jose Diaz.

The CSL is comprised of 12 political parties from 12 countries.

Uruguayan Senator Reinaldo Gargano, PS secretary general; Uruguayan leftist leader General Liber Seregni, Broad Front candidate for the 1984 presidential elections; and Peruvian Deputy Fernando Sanchez Albavera delivered speeches at the opening session.

Diaz told EFE that during the meeting, "The congressmen will express their decision to cooperate with all Latin American democratic organizations that seek the total independence of the continent by the end of this century."

Representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay, and Peru attended the inaugural meeting.

Delegates from the PLO and from the Catalan Socialist Party-Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSC-PSOE) are attending the meeting as observers.

Group of 77 Concludes Special Meeting in Caracas
PA2406231789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1339 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Caracas, 24 Jun (DPA)—A special meeting of the Group of 77 [G-77] which was held this week in Caracas concluded a few hours ago after agreements were reached on North-South and South-South dialogues and on matters such as economic cooperation and acknowledgement of world interdependence.

The meeting, which served to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the the group's founding, was attended by delegates from 97 of the 128 current member countries, including Mongolia, whose membership request was approved in Caracas.

The developing countries agreed that dialogue with the North must be reactivated, particularly in view of the interdependence principle, specifically, the realization that problems affecting the southern countries also affect the industrialized countries, "no matter how powerful they are."

The G-77 expressed its willingness to hold this dialogue and invited the developing nations to assume a similar stance because of "the urgent need to reach a consensus focused on growth and development."

In their joint statement, the delegates pointed out that their countries are passing through a more and more difficult period. Several of these countries are being subjected to severe austerity plans "that have resulted in high social and political costs."

The G-77 pointed out that the current "world political detente offers a good climate for new initiatives," which should be taken advantage of "to find an immediate and lasting solution to the most pressing economic and social problems in the world."

In their statement, the delegates said: "This must be done while taking into consideration the current reality and fully acknowledging the demands posed by international interdependence."

In addition, the delegates reaffirmed their "right and desire to equitably participate in the world's growth and development, especially in terms of the benefits derived from science and technology, to improve the plight of their peoples."

Regarding relations between developing nations, the G-77 delegates agreed to increase their efforts for integration through mechanisms that make it possible to achieve unity of action among members.

The final session of the G-77 meeting, which analysts have said achieved far less than expected, continued well into the night and was officially ended by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paris.

The sessions were marked by the delegates' very long speeches, one after another. With the exception of the opening and closing sessions, the audience never reached 70 percent of the expected attendance.

EC Offers Aid To Strengthen Regional Trade

PA2506041589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2024 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] San Jose, 24 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The European Community [EC] has offered $120 million to Central American countries to strengthen trade in the area, Costa Rican Central Bank President Eduardo Lizano reported today.

Lizano said the aid will go to the Central American Clearing House (CCC), through which businessmen will carry out exchange operations in local currency. The settlement of accounts will be done in dollars through the central banks of each country.

According to the Central American delegates who met yesterday in San Jose with EC representatives, the organization coordinating trade in the area should set the rules for free trade in that area.

The Central American delegates have until 24 September to make formal proposals to the EC on how to use the $120 million the EC has offered, Costa Rican Foreign Trade Minister Luis Diego Escalante said.

Lizano said that next week representatives from Central American governments will attend a meeting in Brussels, Belgium, to define the new ways in which Central American trade will operate with EC cooperation.

Cuba

Luanda Announces 'Commutation' of Death Sentences

FL2206153589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1404 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] A report in Luanda today announces the commutation of the death sentences of 50 members and collaborators of the Angolan counterrevolutionary organization UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola]. The death sentences, which were to be carried out by firing squads, were commuted by presidential decision.

Taking into account Angola's clemency and national harmony laws, and according to the peace initiatives started by the government, this measure proposes to reincorporate into society those people who, after being duped, promoted subversive actions in the nation, says the official report issued in Luanda.

Also, television news casts in Angola report the release of several hundred people who were jailed for participating in antigovernment actions.

Yesterday, Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos announced his acceptance of Jonas Savimbi's voluntary and temporary withdrawal from the political scene. Savimbi is the head of UNITA.

Luanda, Opposition Agree to Cease-Fire

FL2306125789 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The Angolan Government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] have agreed to a cease-fire. The agreement was reached during a 1-day meeting between 18 heads of African states. This meeting was held in Zaire.

It has been reported that the cease-fire will go into effect tomorrow [24 June] at 0000 hours.

Cease-Fire Begins

FL2406115389 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] At 0000 last night [24 June], the cease-fire between the Angolan Government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] went into effect. This comes about after almost 14 years of internal conflict.

Upon referring to this commitment, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said: The first step has been taken and the future will determine what is to happen. However, we have at least given it all our effort.

Commentary Links Religious Sects to CIA

PA2506161289 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 89

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The CIA uses religious sects as instruments for ideological penetration in its effort to stop communist or progressive currents. At first, this type of work in Latin America was very subtle, but over the years it has become more shocking.

The so-called Summer Linguistics Institute [Instituto Linguistico de Verano] is an example of what we are talking about here. Using the excuse that language work is being done and that the New Testament is being taught, members carry out surreptitious activities [momentary break in reception] ultraconservative, anticommunist, and even fascist. The financing for these activities is provided by reactionary private church sectors, business groups, and U.S. and European organizations which dictate the ideological contents of the message that is to be taught, especially to people with little cultural wealth.

The CIA also has strong ties with the so-called Moon Sect, officially known as the Association for the Unification of World Christianity, with tentacles in 130 countries, including several in Latin America. The sect, which controls banks, hotel chains, and important newspapers, has ties with the Mafia and top officers tied to former Latin American dictatorships and neo-Nazi organizations in Europe and the United States. The forces behind the religious sects encourage them to destabilize revolutionary governments, such as the one established in Nicaragua in 1979. Since then, the Sandinist Government has faced an invasion by those provoking groups, which transmit messages that put the people's consciences to sleep. The purpose is to stop the progress of evangelical conscienceness committed to the revolutionary process.

Even though in recent years there has been a retreat, possibly a tactical one, on the actions of the sects over the past few years, authorities have noticed an increase in the arrival of these groups, which ask Nicaraguans not to participate in the country's defense and other duties in support of the revolutionary process. Over the past few weeks, more than 150 alleged evangelists from the United States, Costa Rica, and Puerto Rico have entered Nicaragua. Their campaigns were sponsored by the so-called National Council of Evangelical Pastors, a conservative organization from a Central American country.

The National Council of Evangelical Pastors of Nicaragua has the financial support of the Institute for Central American Development and Evangelization based in Costa Rica, which receives monetary donations from the U.S. Institute for Religion and Democracy created during the Ronald Reagan administration in compliance with suggestions by the Santa Fe document.

Without doubt, a new offensive by the religious sects in Nicaragua is designed to interfere in the election process to satisfy the U.S. interest in decreasing popular support for the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front.

Castro To Attend Menem Inauguration 8 July

PA2506231589 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2245 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Jun (REUTER)—Cuban President Fidel Castro will attend the inauguration of [Argentine President-elect] Carlos Menem, the president-elect said today.

Shortly before traveling to Uruguay, where he met President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, Menem said Castro will be in Buenos Aires on 8 July for his inauguration.

Last week it was confirmed that Brazilian President Jose Sarney, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, and Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez will also attend the ceremony.

Menem added today that Chilean President General Augusto Pinochet has also been invited, but it is not yet known if he will attend.

Scientific-Technical Meeting With Botswana Opens

FL2006220389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1958 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Cuba and Botswana will expand their bilateral cooperation which has existed since 1988, and they will analyze new interests in the area of education, agriculture, trade, and communications.

During the first session of a scientific-technical cooperation meeting, which began today at the protocol room of the Sierra Maestra Hotel in Havana, all these possibilities will be discussed. The Botswana delegation to these talks is headed by Lesedi Mothibamele, minister of health and vice secretary general [title as heard] of the Botswana Democratic Party. The Cuban delegation is headed by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the state committee for economic cooperation.

As a result of this first session between the two governments, the signing of a cooperation agreement is (?expected) for the period of 1989 to 1991.

Jorge Risquet Meets With Botswana Delegation

FL2106181589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and PCC Politburo, has received Mr Lesedi Mothibamele, vice secretary general of the Botswana Democratic Party and minister of health, at the headquarters of the PCC Central Committee. Mr Mothibamele is in our country to participate in the first session of the joint cooperation commission between both countries.

In the meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, the officials discussed matters relating to the development of cooperation between Botswana and Cuba, and the international situation. In this respect, they discussed matters associated with southern Africa.

Mr Mothibamele thanked Cuba for the assistance it has given in the defense of Angola's security and territorial integrity and said that Cuba's presence in that brother country not only contributed to the defeat of South African aggression, but also granted the conditions to implement Resolution 435 for Namibia's independence.

Indian Foreign Minister To Arrive 24 June

FL2306023289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2352 GMT 22 Jun 89

[From "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] The Indian Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr Narasimha Rao, will arrive in our country on Saturday afternoon [24 June] on a friendly and working visit. According to reports, Mr Rao will meet with Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers on Saturday.

On Sunday 25 June in the morning, the Indian foreign minister and our Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca will begin official talks. Later, Minister Rao will visit the National Botanical Garden where, as a friendly gesture, he will plant a tree representing his country. According to official sources, relations between Cuba and India are developing in a positive way in line with the stand assumed by the two governments.

Begins Official Visit

PA2406223189 Paris AFP in Spanish 2103 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Havana, 23 Jun (AFP)—Indian Foreign Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao arrived in Havana today from Caracas, where he participated in a meeting of the Group of 77.

Invited by his Cuban counterpart, Isidoro Malmierca, Narasimha Rao will meet with several senior-level Cuban officials to discuss bilateral matters and preparations for the upcoming meeting of Nonaligned Countries [NOAL] during his 2-day official visit, the Cuban Foreign Ministry reported.

Cuba and India are NOAL founders.

Narasimha Rao last visited Cuba in October 1980.

PCC Delegation Meets With Bulgarian Officials

FL2306031889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0208 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] A Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] delegation exchanged information on political tasks during a meeting with its Bulgarian counterpart which ended in Sofia today. The PCC mission was headed by Division General Sixto Batista Santana, member of the PCC Secretariat and chief of its Defense Department, who together with his group was received by Milko Balev, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Politburo and Secretariat. They also met with Bulgarian Defense Minister General Dobri Dzhurov and member of BCP Politburo.

The Cuban delegation held other meetings at the Department of National Social Security of the party in the regional committee of the city of [words indistinct] in the Economy and Planning Ministry.

Chilean Communist Party Leader Meets Castro

FL2406185589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 24 Jun 89

[Text] Last Thursday [22 June], Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met with Comrade Volodia Teitelboim, general secretary of the Communist Party of Chile, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting they discussed matters relating to the political situation in Latin America, as well as the international political situation. They also discussed bilateral relations between both parties.

Also present at the meeting was Manuel Pineiro Losada, chief of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee's America Department, who later bid farewell to Comrade Teitelboim and his delegation at the Jose Marti International Airport.

Ends Official, Friendly Visit

FL2306140489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Volodia Teitelboim, general secretary of the Communist Party of Chile, has departed our country after an official and friendly visit. Manuel Pineiro, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and chief of the America Department, and other PCC officials said goodbye to the distinguished visitor at the Jose Marti International Airport.

For a week, Teitelboim toured areas of economic and scientific interest in Cuba. He also held working meetings and was received by leaders of the Revolution.

Brazil To Purchase 10 Million Vaccines

FL2306124289 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The Brazilian Government will purchase 10 million antimeningitis type B vaccines from Cuba.

The epidemic began in Sao Paolo and has already spread to 15 state capitals in Brazil.

Brazil's acting foreign minister, Paolo Tarso Flecha de Lima, made a personal announcement to hasten negotiations with Cuba.

Cuba is the only country in the world that produces a vaccine that has been proven to be effective against that disease.

Internationalist Letter to Raul Castro on Ochoa

FL2306132389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The combatants fulfilling their internationalist mission in the People's Republic of Angola have sent a message to Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], in which they say:

Comrade Minister,

We, the generals, officials, sergeants, and soldiers who fulfill our internationalist mission in the People's Republic of Angola, have learned of the unscrupulous activities of Division General Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez and a small group of FAR and MININT [Interior Ministry] officials.

Considering the heroic attitude and upright nature of our heroes' principles, as well as the traditions of struggle that have characterized the glorious FAR from the Manigua Rendentora, to the insurgent struggle in the Sierra Maestra, and the internationalist combat scenarios, we want to convey to you our general feelings so that you can, in turn, convey to the Honor Tribunal the repudiation we feel for the corrupt attitude of Ochoa Sanchez as demonstrated by his criminal activities: the theft, embezzlement, and squandering of our convertible currency and his unbounded zeal to accumulate and manage funds.

We also condemn the unprecedented action of linking himself to mafioso elements, giving the enemies of the Revolution fuel for the fire and we reiterate our conviction, as you have expressed, that to be a FAR official is not a way of life, but a meaning of life.

Because of everything that has been exposed, the severity of the revolutionary law should fall on Ochoa Sanchez. The antecedents of his military career, far from being

extenuating circumstances, will become aggravating circumstances because he violated the honor and confidence which the Communist of Party of Cuba, the FAR, all our people, and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro placed in him.

Fraternally yours,

Division General Leopoldo Cintra Frias, chief of the Cuban military mission in Angola.

Tribunal Summoned To Begin Ochoa Trial 25 June

FL2406150089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] As of 1000 tomorrow, Sunday [25 June], the Honor Tribunal [Tribunal de Honor] that will study the conduct of Division General Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez has been summoned according to the regulations that govern our Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR].

Considering the grave actions committed by Gen Ochoa, the Honor Tribunal is charged with recommending to the top officials of the Communist Party of Cuba, state, and government the subsequent steps to be taken in this case.

The Presidency of the honor tribunal will be made up of: Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, who will preside over the tribunal; Division General Jesus Bermudez Cutino, secretary; and Division General Ramon Pardo Guerra, nonvoting member. In its entirety, the tribunal is made up of 47 of the FAR's highest-ranking officers.

Risquet Meets With SWAPO Official in Havana

FL2306181089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and PCC Politburo, has received (Peter Chihama), representative from SWAPO's [South-West African People's Organization] office in Cuba.

Risquet and (Chihama) studied the progress of the plans to return 1,558 Namibian students to their country. These students, who had been given scholarships in Cuba, are of voting age.

Comrade (Chihama), who has been in Cuba for 3 years, had warm words of acknowledgement for the Cuban people, government and PCC because of the solidarity and help that has always been given to the Namibian people during their struggle for independence.

Over 300 Internationalists Honored at Cacahual

FL2206192789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Today, over 300 internationalists who arrived victoriously in the fatherland rendered honors to General Antonio Maceo; Panchito Gomez Toro, his aid; and Comrade Blas Roca Calderio at the Cacahual Mausoleum.

The ceremony was presided over by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo.

[Begin recording] [Ramon Cardona, member of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, identified by caption] The medals that are on your chests reward the valor and daring shown in battle, and represent the most worthy homage to the man who showed us, with his exemplary path, the vocation of a true revolutionary. Present in all of your hearts was the legendary [words indistinct] of Santa Clara, of the invasion, and Valle Grande; the heroic guerrilla commander, Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

[Juan Escalona Reguera, member PCC Central Committee, identified by caption] Those who have known how to give up the peace found at home to distance themselves kilometers and kilometers from their country to contribute with their efforts and even with their blood to the peace and well-being of a brother country; will without doubt be the first ones to get into the trenches of development to construct and perfect socialism. [end recording]

Combatants Receive Medals

FL2306142689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpt] More than 300 internationalist combatants returned to the fatherland last night from Angola. Among the medals they wore on their chests were the Internationalist Combatant, First and Second Class; Ignacio Agramonte, Cuba-Angola Defense; Defense of Cuito Cuanavale, and the Distinguished Service Medals. [passage omitted]

Garcia Frias Welcomes Group

FL2406024789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0231 GMT 24 June 89

[Text] Over 600 internationalist combatants who have returned to the fatherland in the past 2 days will be officially welcomed in a ceremony that will be held at El Cacahual tomorrow Saturday [24 June]. After fulfilling their internationalist missions in Angola, 300 officers, sergeants, and soldiers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and reserves arrived victorious aboard Cubana Airlines and Aeroflot flights tonight.

Among them were 28 young combatants who were wearing on their lapels the Defense of Cuito Cuanavale Medal and three officers the Ignacio Agramonte Medal, among other decorations and awards. Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias, chiefs, and officers of the FAR and MININT [Interior Ministry], and representatives of political and mass organizations went to the Havana airport to welcome them.

Job Placement Provided to Internationalists

FL2406013089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The attention to our internationalist combatants is a priority task of the state. The job placement of these youths is at the center of attention.

Committees of the central organizations of the economy are working at the Revolutionary Armed Forces transit unit where the internationalists live for a short period of time. They provide the combatants with all the information regarding the options for job placement. Light Industry, Basic Industry, UNECA [Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises, MININT [Interior Ministry], SIME [Steelworking Industry], Urban Buses, INTUR [National Institute of Tourism], Construction Ministry, and Construction Material Industry, among other organizations, are offering jobs.

This task began in April when our first internationalists arrived. Many of them have joined work centers. This is an initial contact and in no way forces the young individual to join the first center he chooses. That is, they can join other jobs in their municipalities if they decide to do so.

They are also offered technical training courses for their professional development. This task is at the beginning stage and has to continue being improved. The most important thing is that they are an exceptional force and have security in their future when they arrive in the fatherland. Because of their political education, their discipline, and youth, the country needs them to boost the economic development.

Planes Refusing To Land Will Be 'Fired Upon'

FL2406142889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Now we will read a press release issued by the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]:

Cuba has been characterized as facilitating international air navigation and maintaining a regime of control and aid for this according to international agreements.

In October of last year, the Cuban Government established the Third International Air Corridor in the eastern part of the nation. This corridor, named Nuevas, facilitates traveling between the Caribbean Sea and the Bahamas and southeast of the United States.

To avoid accidents that would lead to loss of life, our government has been very careful in confronting violations of our airspace by irresponsible persons who evade the controls our laws establish regarding aviation.

We have even accepted detours of up to 20 miles in the international corridors that cross our country when they have been required for the safety of the flights, or have resulted from an error in navigation, or existing weather conditions. On many occasions, private aircraft have violated Cuban airspace and refused to land despite repeated warnings. Such flights, and the subsequent conduct by the violators, can only be explained as being part of drug trafficking activities.

As a result of the drug trafficking activities that were extensively reported to our people and international public opinion in last Thursday's [22 June] GRANMA editorial—activities in which an attempt was made to involve our country—no matter how unpleasant it may be, we will be forced to fire upon any aircraft that is involved in this type of violation and refuses to obey the order to land so that they may be inspected.

Taking into account the fact that our island is a narrow band of land that can be crossed in a matter of minutes, any plane that illegally enters our airspace will be chased and intercepted even beyond the limit of our territorial waters. The violator will be pursued as far as the Republic of Cuba's outermost boundry of the outer antiaircraft defense zone and forced to land, just as is established in Article 29 of Law 1318 of the Republic of Cuba. This law deals with the organization, planning, and control of flights. If the order is disobeyed, the violating plane will be shot down.

Further on Airspace Violations

FL2406182689 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Station Commentary]

[Text] The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces' press release published in today's GRANMA is directed to stop an anomalous situation Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has been warning against for some years. The measure is definite, but Cuba has the right to demand absolute respect of its airspace, even more so if a violation of that right implicates the compromising of our honor, dignity, purity, the principles of the Cuban Revolution, and even our very national security.

In this way, any plane that illegally penetrates our airspace will be pursued and forced to land. If it disobeys the order to land, as the letter states, it will be shot down. Since 1985, in conversations with U.S. Congressman (Melvin Dibaly), Fidel referred to talks of these events. Informing (Dibaly) of Cuba's war against drug trafficking, Fidel told him that between 1984 and 1985, 306 drug traffickers had been caught. Of these, 91 of them

were U.S. citizens. Fidel added that the nation's authorities had also captured some 600,000 pounds of marijuana and over 1,000 pounds of cocaine. He said that in that same time frame, 25 planes, of which 24 were from the United States, had been captured. He also told (Dibaly) that 56 ships had been caught, and of these, 37 were from the United States.

All of the drug dealers were rigorously sanctioned. Notwithstanding the Revolution's policy on drug trafficking, Fidel told (Dibaly) of how small, private planes frequently violated our airspace without paying any attention to the orders they were given by Cuban intercept planes. It is a serious dilemma, explained Fidel, really dramatic to decide to fire upon an unarmed civilian plane. There is no way of actually knowing who is in the plane.

Later, in the 1985 conversation, Fidel told the congressman: Anti-Cuban propaganda in the United States is not little. They know that we will not fire at them and so they laugh at the orders to land. If in all of those cases they had been fired upon, explained Fidel, we would have knocked down dozens of planes. Of course, he warned, this cannot be tolerated indefinitely.

The moment has come and the decision has been made. Our people cleanse the offenses and buffets to the fatherland. Despite the infuriating stain, Cuba will continue to be the place most feared by drug traffickers.

Group of 77 To Reestablish Talks With North

FL2406113689 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The Group of 77 has just announced that they are in favor of reestablishing talks with the industrialized north. The group, which held its meeting in Caracas, also agreed to strengthen its position to revitalize South-South cooperation.

The forum of 128 nations affirmed that a world economic structure based on perpetual inequalities cannot last forever. The group's declaration states that this situation should be changed through international cooperation.

CTC Official Presides Over Secretaries Meeting

FL2306144789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] All work depends heavily on a person's actions and the form in which it is done, said Pedro Ross Leal, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the committee organizing the 16th congress of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions]. Ross Leal made these remarks at a meeting of general secretaries of national trade unions; provincial CTC committees; and from the special municipality, Isle of Youth.

The delegates attending the meeting discussed the assembly process which is currently underway to analyze economic plans. At these assembly meetings, production and service workers have stated solutions to the problems presented. They have also offered suggestions on how to improve labor discipline, the quality of products, and the willingness to produce more with less resources. They also analyzed other topics in this meeting, such as support for the MTT [Territorial Troops Militia] and the 16th CTC Congress.

Agriculture Minister Carlos Perez made a special speech at the general secretaries meeting in which he referred to the CTC's efforts to improve production levels.

Women's Group Departs for Bluefields, Nicaragua

FL2306135089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] A party composed of 20 female minibrigade members left this morning for Bluefields, Nicaragua. They, along with 30 other comrades who will leave within the next few days, will work in the reconstruction of Bluefields. This town was devastated by Hurricane Joan last October.

The Cuban women belong to the Jose Marti Internationalist Minibrigade Contingent. This contingent has already built part of the 1,000 houses Cuba donated to the population of the Nicaraguan coastal town.

All of the departing comrades have an occupation. They are responsible for laying tile, [words indistinct], and installing steel rods. The workers are already committed to finish the first houses by next 19 July. This will be the 10th anniversary commemorating the victory of the Sandinist revolution.

Last night, the 20 comrades who are in the female party were given a fraternal farewell in their homes. Celebrating with the Havana minibrigade members were their work companions. Their friends told the departing women that they were confident they would fulfill this internationalist mission honorably.

This group, representing Cuban women, is happily going to give their solidarity help to the brother Nicaraguan people.

People Ashamed, Indignant Over Offense to Nation

FL2306175089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Few episodes in the history of the Revolution have raised such a high level of indignation in the nation. The justified anger we see today in the revolutionary people has not been seen since the days of the sabotage to the Cubre center, the invasion of Playa Giron and the bombing that preceded it, the assassination of teachers

in the Escambray and those of the unselfish border combatants, the kidnapping of fishermen, the flight of the airplane in the proximity of Barbados, and the events that led to the hardened marches of the combatant people.

If many are traumatized by acts such as these, GRANMA said yesterday, it is because we are without a doubt an inseparable part of one of the cleanest political processes in history and it will continue to remain clean because we will know how to clean up offenses such as these in an exemplary manner. In effect, the people are already cleaning up the miserable offense, the slap in the face to the fatherland, in an exemplary manner.

It was once said that shame is a revolutionary trait. Our people are feeling a mixture of shame and indignation because of this offense to their honor, dignity, and to the purity and principles of our revolution. These dirty events have hit our people hard just when we are in the process of a notable effort to advance amid tremendous difficulties.

It is justified when Fidel tells us, as he said on 26 July, that to obtain what we need, there is no other alternative but to work hard and well.

Revolutionary justice will be responsible for judging this small group which, as GRANMA said, has endangered not only the prestige, but also the security of our country. Now we must confide in revolutionary history, just as we have always done.

International Workshop on Social Sciences Begins

FL2106013789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Over 700 Latin American specialists and scholars are participating in the international scientific workshop on the development of social sciences in the contemporary world which began in the University of Havana today. This workshop is being held in Cuba for the first time.

Its goal is to exchange views that scientifically approach the problems in the area and contribute to the development of philosophy, history, politics, and sociology. Over 10 countries are represented. Costa Rica, Argentina, Guyana, Mexico, Brazil, and the United States are among them.

Specialized sessions on the scope and limitations of democratic openings in Latin America, panel discussions on religion in Third World social projects, and round tables broaching cultural identity in the region are being held. Aspects of the Central American crisis, the experiences and projection of the Cuban Revolution, as well as its foreign policy toward the United States and Latin America will also be discussed.

A numismatic exposition opened during the meeting's 1st day. It shows the development of Cuban currency since colonial times. In the next few days—until 23 June—books, magazines, videos, and records will be released and presented in collateral activities to the workshop.

Changes in Work of Recruitment Committees Noted

FL2206020589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] The work of recruitment committees for active military service with youths who were born up to 1972 began in our country this month. Favorable changes have been taking place for some time in this process which is being held in each municipality. For example, the committee includes now 10 members who represent the various political and mass organizations in the territory. The work is no longer a mere administrative formality and it has turned into a basically political procedure which contributes to the patriotic-military education of our youth.

The first thing that is done when the young man arrives in the place of the appointment is to introduce him to the members of the committee to avoid distance and promote a closer relationship. Each file is closely examined and the various representatives give their views. The physical, political, and moral conditions of the young man are also looked into.

Later, an interview is conducted and the youth's options are discussed. If he completed pre-university school, he will be able to choose order 18 [as heard]. Others will only spend a year in the service since they already have their career guaranteed or differed. The possibilities of courses such as those for sergeant instructors and the SEPMI [Society for Patriotic-Military Education] are also looked into.

In sum, there is more depth in the decisions made about the future of these young men. The process is not perfect but sound steps are being taken. We are sure of it.

Bus Driver Sentence to 10 Years Imprisonment

FL2406020589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2313 GMT 23 Jun 89

[From "Exclusivo" newscast]

[Text] Gilberto Almodovar Machin, driver of Urban Buses was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment, the maximum sentence. He was found guilty of an accident that occurred in the Barreras Road, Guanabacoa Municipality last June. He was driving a 493 route bus with reckless negligence, ignored the railroad crossing stop signal, and caused the death of 29 people.

As civil responsibility, he will also have to pay over 19,000 pesos to the Urban Buses Enterprise, almost 2,000 pesos to the Railroad Division, and over 1,000

pesos to the Electric Power Enterprise. In addition, he will also have to make a monthly payment to four minors who were left without parents until they become adults. His driver's license was suspended for 5 years.

People Believe Revolution Strengthened by 'Test'
FL2406112689 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The nation's attention is still centered on the affair of the high-ranking Cuban officers who were linked to international drug trafficking. The people continue to express their most indignant repulsion at such acts, as well as their support of the GRANMA editorial which explains and examines those events.

Groups of professionals, unions, womens' associations, and peoples' organizations of a national or local nature have rejected the deeds carried out by the accused. In addition to the generalized reactions of indignation, the people have expressed their assurance that the Revolution will be strengthened by this hard test.

'Open Agenda' Program Discusses AIDS
FL2306234289

[Editorial report] Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 20 June carries its "Open Agenda" program on AIDS. Program host Antonio Resillez and Dr Hector Jose Terry, vice minister of public health, visited the Santiago de las Vegas Sanatorium, located approximately 35 km west of Havana, where AIDS cases are treated.

Resillez, Dr Terry, Dr Manuel Hernandez Liens, director of the sanatorium, and an unidentified woman are seen in a room at the sanatorium.

Responding to a question posed by Resillez, Dr Terry says that Cuba has 300 AIDS virus carriers. He adds that 61 of them have shown various levels of the disease and that 16 have died: 15 men and 1 woman. Dr Terry explains that out of the 300 AIDS virus carriers, 82 are women, 71 are male with homosexual or bisexual behavior, and the rest are heterosexual males.

At this point, the group begins a tour of the facility. As they go to the gardens, the narrator says the Santiago de las Vegas Sanatorium opened a few months after the Cuban comprehensive program against AIDS was created over 3 years ago. He explains that the sanatorium is located in two farms called Los Cocos and El Maranon and that this location was chosen because of the environmental conditions favorable to the physical and emotional requirements of the affected patients.

The group visits the area called El Maranon. Dr Hernandez Liens says this area has 43 housing units where patients live. He notes that the living conditions are adequate, very similar to what they would have at home, and "very humane." Dr Hernandez adds this area also includes an observation ward, a psychiatric services ward, laundry, vegetable garden, club house, and a doctor's office. He says this area is still being developed; 28 housing units were just built and a second phase includes the construction of 12 more housing units, a dining room/pantry with capacity for 60 persons, and a video viewing room for 200 people.

Dr Hernandez asserts 258 patients live in the sanatorium; 67 of them are classified as group 4, those with AIDS related symptoms, and the rest are included in group 3, which are carriers free of symptoms.

Dr Terry says work is being done in the Sancti Spiritus Sanatorium and that a model project will begin to be built for the central provinces and another one for the eastern provinces some time this year. The goal is for sanatoriums not to have over 200 patients each.

The group visits the six-bed observation ward. Dr Hernandez explains this ward is used to hospitalize AIDS patients or carriers who require an observation period of 3 to 5 days. The doctor says that if the patient does not recover, he would have to be referred to other institutions for continued treatment.

Dr Hernandez explains that Cuba follows the classification of the various stages of AIDS patients as agreed by the WHO. He differentiates those people who carry the AIDS virus but do not have symptoms and AIDS patients. He says the AIDS virus carrier may be asymptomatic but he can transmit the virus to another person. Dr Hernandez goes on to say that patients who fall in the group 4 category have serious difficulties with their immunological system and, consequently, he or she is more liable to have all kinds of infections including tumors. Dr Terry adds there is no effective medication that can cure the illness and there is no vaccine available to prevent it.

Resillez notes that not all countries isolate AIDS patients and he asks what the benefits are that Cuba has found in isolating patients and what types of measures other countries take to prevent the spread of AIDS. Dr Terry explains the sanatorium approach is part of the program but is not the entire anti-AIDS program in the country. However, he says the sanatorium was created with two specific goals, "to provide medical treatment to 100 percent of the people diagnosed and to prevent the spread of the virus through incoherent and irresponsible sexual relations—not really incoherent but irresponsible—outside the framework of established behavior."

Resillez is told that patients can be visited three times a week and during weekends. Havana patients are allowed to go home on Sundays with an escort and patients from the interior can go home for 4 days every 45 days.

Dr Hernandez stresses that the sanatorium is a health institution and not a place where people go to die.

Resillez interviews several patients who praise the good treatment they receive there. One patient savs probably he would have already died had it not been for the sanatorium.

A Mexican doctor who works in the institution talks about the high incidence of AIDS cases in the United States. The screen shows a U.S. map and a caption that reads: The United States does not have a coherent and efficient strategy against AIDS.

Dr Hernandez talks about the plans to provide classes for patients, to build sports facilities, and to improve the services.

The approximately 54-minute program ends with Resillez congratulating staff members for their work.

Caribbean Affairs

Permanent Caricom Mission Needed in Haiti

FL2006160489 Bridgetown CANA in English
1259 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, June 19, CANA—St Lucia's parliamentary commissioner, Hunter Francois, just back from Haiti as a part a Caribbean Community (Caricom) fact-finding delegation, has called for a permanent Caricom mission in the troubled French-speaking regional state. From his discussions with officials and leaders of groups there, he said it was clear that Caricom provides more information on the Caribbean to the Haitian community.

Francois was speaking ahead of the mission's final meeting here on Thursday, to refine the report which will go before regional foreign ministers and then to the forthcoming Caricom heads of government meeting in Grenada in early July. "After seeing Haiti and holding talks with different organisations and individuals, it became clear that the people of Caricom should see it fit to have a permanent presence of some sort" said the former education minister. "That can be done within the ambit of the Bahamian Embassy because the Bahamas is part of Caricom and they do have an embassy there," he suggested.

He said the delegation found that the Haitian people were looking forward to Caricom helping them get out of the isolation which has been their fate for some time. Haiti, the poorest country in the hemisphere, has been ruled for decades by dictatorship or the military. "On all levels people seemed to know what Caricom was all about and I met a student group who was asking for information and said they did not have enough. The Caricom Secretariat has agreed to assist them," he said.

Francois said their discussions with opposition groups revealed differences of opinion on how the elections should be organised. ""One communist group wanted to see the different parties get together and form a coalition government, while others were in conflict on elections, whether it should be phased from local elections first, then legislative and then presidential; others felt that all should be held together," Francois disclosed.

He said on the whole it was a fruitful exercise, in the sense that they found people willing to speak freely, and indicating a desire that there should be steps taken to bring the democratic process back to Haiti. "We had no obstacles put in our way and we had no obstructions, and the general wish was that Haiti should be in Caricom and that Caricom should assist Haiti in getting out of its present isolation," Francois said.

After the team has presented its recommendations it will be for the Caricom heads to decide what their response should be, he added. The 1989 Caricom summit opens July 3.

Jamaican Lawyers Oppose Membership in Court

FL2306173489 Bridgetown CANA in English
1538 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, June 23, CANA—Some lawyers here are against Jamaica's participation in a proposed Caribbean Court of Appeal.

The July edition of "MATTERS CONCERNING LAWYERS", a bi-monthly pamphlet, said that Jamaica should not become a part of the proposed Caribbean Court of Appeal as it was not in the country's best interest for appeals to be heard in such a court.

The pamphlet pointed to the present shortage of "judicial material" in Jamaica and other countries, as one reason why Jamaica should not participate in the venture.

President of the Jamaica Bar Association, Frank Phipps Q.C., confirmed that members of the General Legal Council met earlier this week to discuss the matter. He however refused to give details as to what actions would be taken by local attorneys.

Jamaica's attorney general, Carl Rattray has said that he was not in a position to state the government's position on the matter.

"The decision will be taken in Grenada" where Caribbean Community [Caricom] heads of government will discuss the court of appeal proposal," he said. He however said that personally he was in favour of the proposal.

The opposition Jamaica Party, while agreeing with the concept, has expressed reservations about the establishment of the court.

At last year's Caricom heads of government summit in St Johns, Antigua, former Prime Minister Edward Seaga suggested instead the setting up of a Caribbean judicial

committee, adding that Jamaica would not accept a proposal that judges be appointed and remove by heads of government as this would mean political appointed of judges.

The court would replace the British Party Council as the court of last resort for Caribbean countries.

Seaga said then that a Caribbean judicial committee would be "similar in structure and methods of appointment as now exists in the Caribbean countries where political appointments of the judiciary is ruled out."

In May this year, regional foreign ministers endorsed the idea for the setting up of a Caribbean Court of Appeal. But, they said, they would first examine the proposals for the setting up of the court and submit their views next month's Caricom meeting.

According to a communique issued at the end of the 15th Meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Foreign Affairs held in Castries, St Lucia, the move to set up the Caribbean Court of Appeal should be a "Caricom initiative."

The idea for a Caribbean Court of Appeal was first proposed by Trinidad and Tobago and was accepted in principle at last year's Caricom meeting. The idea was sent to regional attorneys general for fine-tuning.

The attorneys general had recommended a mobile court comprising initially four of the regions most legal personnel. It was also said that the headquarters should be in one country and the judges would move periodically to hear cases throughout the region.

Bahamas

Involvement in Drugs Denied; PRC Criticized

FL2206223489 Bridgetown CANA in English 2146 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, June 22, CANA—The Bahamian Government has hit out at claims that it is involved in the illegal drugs business.

It also urged China to show restraint with students seeking democratic changes.

United States media and some politicians have accused high-level Bahamians of involvement in the illegal drug trade. But Minister of Foreign Affairs Charles Carter said the Bahamas is not and had never been a producer of narcotic drugs. Government had allocated more than 13 percent of its national budget to law enforcement and almost all of that "is tied to the drug trade," he reported.

He said the current Bahamas police drug unit of 100 officers will consist of 270 specially trained officers when the unit is fully operational.

"A country the size of the Bahamas normally would have a drug unit of not more than 18 officers," he said. "It (Bahamas) is not and has never been a processing or manufacturing point of the trade. There is no traditional drug culture in the Bahamas as there is in Peru, Bolivia, and Jamaica, Carter said.

He added that for about five years certain sectors of the U.S. press and a minority of U.S. congressmen and senators had identified the Bahamas as their scapegoat of choice in the American campaign against drug trafficking and abuse.

Carter continued, "The Bahamas is an easy target—small, black and firmly in the Western political orbit. Attacks in the Bahamas afford headline-grabbing news organisations and less than serious politicians ample opportunity to "get good press" on being tough on drugs, without actually doing anything to fight the drug war and without fear of consequential adverse reaction."

The Bahamian foreign minister also took issue with China over its handling of the students demonstration for democratic change. Chinese soldiers killed hundreds of unarmed students, and the Bahamas has joined in the international outcry against the development.

"Our culture, our traditions revolt at the notion that (the) citizens rights to petition the authorities are abused," Carter told a service club here.

Dominica

Prime Minister Assumes New Ministerial Post

FL1906161989 Bridgetown CANA in English 2058 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, June 16, CANA—Dominica's prime minister, Eugenia Charles, has added responsibility for the fire, ambulance, and prison services to her portfolios. Miss Charles also has responsibility for finance, external affairs, and the police service.

Her new responsibilities had been held by Community Development Minister Heskeith Alexander who, during the course of last year, had housing taken from him and added to the portfolio of Minister of Communications and Works Alleyne Carbon. Miss Charles said the transfer would make for "greater co-ordination with the security services in the use of training opportunities, equipment, and other facilities."

Dominican Republic

Commentary Analyzes Reasons for Strike

FL2306152889 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Jun 89

["Preguntando" commentary]

[Text] Why are the people on strike? They are on strike for the right to life, for the right to eat, to protest an economic policy that has devoured their savings, to demand a reorganization of public spending in the production sectors.

Dominican citizens have not and do not intend to create problems for the government. It is the government which is creating permanent problems for the citizenry with inorganic [word indistinct] and excessive taxes. Dominicans only hope and want bread, peace, and liberty.

This is the unanimous, collective cry. That is why the teachers have brought their work to a standstill. That is why agriculture professionals are discontented. Their demands are legitimate. These are the demands of a hungry people.

Group Criticizes Commission Investigating Demands
FL2306161589 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1034 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Extensive Front of the People's Struggle, FALP, described as a joke and demagogic, is the recently created commission that will study the demands of the strikers to determine consumer costs for basic items.

FALP spokesman Alexis Alvarez said that despite the success of the strike, the government of President Joaquin Balaguer remains insensitive to the people's demands. Alvarez said:

[Alvarez] "The strike on 19 and 20 June was successful because the people opposed the economic policy of the government, which represents hunger and malnutrition instead of life and health.

"The Dominican people have to know that the proposals submitted to the government include the demand to lower and freeze the high cost of living, an increase and general adjustment of salaries, agricultural land for peasants, and the fulfillment of the agreements reached with the communities and sectors involved in the struggle. These have not yet been met by the government. Instead, the government has responded with demagogy, blackmail, and mockery."

The FALP spokesman said that the national congress meeting to discuss draft laws is not a step toward solving the conflict. He said that the congressional meeting and the creation of the commission are Balaguer's tactics to divide the movement. He later said to Radio Mil Informando [name of newscast]:

[Alvarez] "An example of this is the commission that was created last night which will look into the workers' demands. This commission will be used to divide the movement.

"In addition, a decree has been issued calling a meeting of the legislative chambers to discuss the demands. We believe this is unprecedented. There are about 10 demands here that the government can fulfill with an executive decree. What he is trying to do by calling the legislature together is to separate himself from his responsibility regarding these demands.

"In view of an insensitive government that only thinks about [words indistinct] to eliminate hunger, the Dominican people have no other alternative except to maintain their struggle in the streets, neighborhoods, communities, and factories. It has been demonstrated that those who do not fight are killed by hunger."

Alvarez said that the campaigns that are being planned should be more forceful and extensive to meet the peoples' demands.

[Alvarez] "[Words indistinct] the government remained insensitive to the 48-hour strike. We understand that the next strike, or the next national movement, has to be more extensive. It has to last longer and it has to be stronger.

"The people are asking us what was achieved by this strike. We tell them that it first succeeded in showing the government that it has to change its economic policy. Now we have to get a definite response from the government on our demands, which include a general increase in salaries, the freezing of the cost of living, and the fulfillment of agreements reached with the general sectors, such as teachers, agronomists, doctors, [words indistinct] in Salcedo, (Bayauana), and Bani.

"The struggle definitely (?needs to be) more profound."

Teachers Commission To Negotiate With Government
FL2306165489 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1057 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The Dominican Teachers Association, ADP, has announced the creation of a commission that will be responsible for negotiating with the government to reach a solution to the strike that has affected teachers for 7 weeks.

The announcement was made by Rafael Santos during a news conference. He said that the commission is comprised of him and ADP leaders (Subscribo Cabral) and (Juan Torres).

ADP General Secretary Santos said that the government should contact him and also create a commission that will find a solution to the conflict. Santos said that the commission is willing to meet with the government whenever authorities decide they are ready. He also said that the government's announcement that [words indistinct] is insufficient. Rafael Santos said that there are other demands included in the agreement signed with the secretariat that can be fulfilled by the government.

Haiti

Group Says Avril Failed, Demands Manigat Return

FL2406144089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] A support council for the return of President Manigat has been formed. The council's acronym is Conarlem [National Council of Support for the Return of Leslie Manigat].

Conarlem has written an open letter to President Avril calling for the return of the exiled president. This national support council for the return of Leslie Manigat says that in view of the established fact of the general failure of General Avril's 9 months of government, it demands that Manigat return.

Conarlem writes to Prosper Avril, quote: Mr President, if you still have any of the blood of our heros in your veins, give up the government and turn it back over to the man elected on 17 January 1988—end quote.

This same letter is also addressed to the chiefs of diplomatic and consular missions. The council's authorities ask these international organizations to help the Haitian people in this initiative to have Manigat return. Manigat would serve out the remainder of his term with a government of public salvation, says Conarlem.

Further on Call for Manigat

FL2406143489 Port-au-Prince LE MATIN in French No 26.753, 23 Jun 89 p 2

[From the "Haiti and Today's World" column]

[Excerpts] A government of public salvation in Haiti?

An organization baptized National Council of Support for the Return of Leslie Manigat [Conseil National d'Apui Au Retour de Lesly Manigat—Conarlem] [first name as published] Monday addressed an open letter to General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, asking him to step down and allow the people to acclaim Leslie Manigat president of a government of public salvation. [passage omitted] The open letter from Conarlem is signed by Ulrick St Lot, Luc Morency, and Jean Fritz Sainton [names as published].

Caritas Man Implicated in Anti-U.S. Incident

FL2406142389 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] After an incident that occurred last 4 June in (Grand Fond), seventh rural section of Mahotieres, Bassin Bleu, in the administrative district of Port-de-Paix, the Port-de-Paix authorities formed a committee to conduct an investigation into the incident. According to this committee's report, seven people—Saccius, Pierrecilien, Exafin, Logique, Scelle, Luckner, and Henriquez—went to (Grand Fond) at around 1400 last Sunday, 4 June and destroyed the nursery and the plants that had been prepared by the area agronomist and the peasants of (Grand Fond).

According to the report, this operation was underwritten by Bonel Jean-Baptiste, an agronomist working for Caritas [Catholic relief organization]. This man also provided transportation for the rebels during the massacre that occurred in (Jean-Rabel) in July of 1987. [sentence as heard]

The partisans of this agronomist, Jean-Baptiste, are not at all in favor of any of the campaigns sponsored by CARE. They say they are against any and all kind of American assistance in the area. They are not at all in favor of the Americans providing aid to the area. Thus, they say they will cross any and all American moves in the area. They say they are even ready to repeat the (Jean-Rabel) massacre of 1987. Thus, they have even threatened to kill the group leaders of the agricultural groups and set fire to their houses unless these group leaders leave the area and leave their (?peasants) movements.

This report has been submitted to the pertinent authorities and a number of measures will be taken in the coming days to ensure the lives and property of the residents of (Grand Fond) village.

This information came from Port-de-Paix in northwestern Haiti.

Radio Soleil's Programs Director Fired

FL2306171889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] We have here a press release from Radio Soleil signed by Joseph Georges, former program director of Radio Soleil. Here is what it says:

I, Joseph Georges, Radio Soleil's programming director since 10 January 1983, inform the public that I have received a letter of dismissal signed by Msgr Emmanuel Constant, Msgr Joseph Lafontant, and Father Arnoux Chery.

This letter, which I received on 21 June 1989, comes after several members of the Radio Soleil team asked the new administration for a meeting, so the team could see clearly into the way the new administration has been running the radio since it took office.

My dismissal also comes after the administration trampled normal administrative principles underfoot in the preparation of a station identification. The administration demanded that I play this identification, which was prepared under bad conditions and was full of mistakes,

without any explanation. At the request of Msgr Constant, I sat down with Radio Soleil director Father Arnoux Chery to redo the identification, which is 2 minutes and 40 seconds long, and I played it whenever possible.

On Wednesday 21 June, the two bishops and Father Chery told me they were not satisfied and they sent me my letter of dismissal.

As you know, the meeting scheduled for 10 June 1989 was never held. Instead, Soleil personnel received a forceful letter from the episcopal committee for the administration of the radio station demanding that they submit to the administration. The personnel who continued to ask for dialogue have to this day not received an answer from either the bishops or the administration.

The fact that I was fired, as well as many other improper things that are being done at Radio Soleil, makes me feel very uneasy for all those who risked their lives at Radio Soleil, as well as for all the other people who had expected to have Radio Soleil forever be a tool for truth and justice in this country in which there is so much injustice. Because of my dismissal, I am also concerned for the remainder of the team, who (?might not) accept all the underhanded schemes now being prepared at Radio Soleil by the new authorities.

I thank everyone who has struggled at Radio Soleil's side during the 11 years it has been in existence, years that have not been at all easy. I hope both they and the rest of the team will continue to struggle for what they believe in for Haiti, in the name of their faith and in the name of the Gospel.

This press release was sent to the press by Joseph Georges, the former programming director of Radio Soleil, who has just been fired.

Soleil Personnel Protest Firing

FL2306174989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Since the installation of Radio Soleil's new administration made up of Father Arnoux Chery; Joseph Louis, who is director of credit supervision at BNDAI [Banque Nationale de Development Agricole et Industrial—National Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank]; and Georges J. Martin, who used to write for LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR, and since the Ramotus scandal, during which the employees out in the Cul-de-Sac plain decided to shut down the transmitter, three members of the Radio Soleil team have already been fired.

After Jean [last name indistinct], who worked in Club 3000, and Emmanuel Cantave, accountant and emcee of "Hone, Respe" [a traditional peasant greeting, title of a program targeting Haitian peasants] were fired, yesterday, 21 June, it was the turn of programmer Joseph Georges, better known to Radio Soleil listeners as Ti Jo of the "Hone, Respe" team. In a letter dated 21 June signed by Msgr Emmanuel Constant, Msgr Joseph Lafontant, and Father Arnoux Chery, Joseph Georges learned that these men had decided to fire him as the radio's programmer, as well as from all the other positions he held in the radio's other departments, effective 21 June 1989.

The reason they gave in the letter: Joseph Georges allegedly failed to play a new 2-minute-and-40-second station identification, which according to the radio authorities should have been substituted for all other station identifications that have been used since the radio station opened on 30 April 1978.

We have received a press release that Joseph Georges wrote on that same 21 June, in which he speaks of how concerned he is for the future of all Radio Soleil's personnel who have risked their lives for the radio over the past 11 years, and for everyone who expected the radio to be an instrument of truth, love, and justice. [passage omitted]

Most of the members of the Radio Soleil team, especially those who signed the memorandum of 25 May 1989 asking for dialogue with the station's new administration—and who have gotten no response—hereby express their solidarity with Joseph Georges and protest his dismissal, a dismissal which we find arbitrary and unfounded, and which is not in keeping with any principle in the Gospel of the Church of Jesus Christ.

The signers of the 25 May memorandum say to Joseph Georges that they will not forget him, and will not forget what he has accomplished during the 7 years he has worked for Radio Soleil. Neither will they forget all the big dangers he faced at our side—more precisely, after Father Hugo Triest was deported, and also following the departure of Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Neither will we feel comfortable with having a number of citizens who have made us suffer over the last few years, especially before the departure of Jean-Claude Duvalier—the people who arrested us, shot at us, and hauled us in for trial at ministries—today coming and directing us, coming and giving us orders.

Joseph Georges' dismissal is perhaps the reward for all the sacrifices he made for Radio Soleil during the 7 years he worked for it.

We are happy with the work you accomplished at Radio Soleil, Georges. You have a lot to do with what Radio Soleil has become, after 11 years of existence, even though we do know that some things could have been improved. We are certain that wherever you work, you will continue to make your personal contribution to the difficult struggle for truth, justice, love, and respect for human rights in this poor, old, raggedy Haiti of ours that has been torn into little pieces—a Haiti where a little

handful of bigshots have gotten together to make exploitation a truly common practice; where they have forgotten all Christian principles, all principles of sharing and charity; where they have sworn to have nothing change.

Once again, Georges, thank you for doing the Lord's work. You did it respectfully and with dignity. Honor, power, money, and popularity were never your priorities. You have the satisfaction, Georges, of knowing that those who are the poorest—and this is the majority in Haiti—are happy with the work you did for Radio Soleil.

Guard Posted; Tension Increases

FL2406145489 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The situation at Radio Soleil evolved a bit yesterday. One day after they decided to fire programs director Joseph Georges, the new administration sent for a civilian as well as a soldier armed with an Uzi, a revolver, and a billy club. These men were posted at Radio Soleil without anyone knowing exactly why.

This new situation increased the tension that has existed at Radio Soleil since the beginning of April and that is hindering the employees' work.

Also, the members of the radio station's team yesterday, presented to the administration a note expressing the team's solidarity with Joseph Georges. In the note, the team questioned the value and respect the new authorities accord the work the radio station is doing for the Haitian people.

Will the radio station's administration, which since its installation at the beginning of April has always refused all dialogue, listen? And yet during the bloody clashes between the Dessalines Barracks and the Presidential Guard at the beginning of April, the episcopal conference, through its spokesman Msgr Joseph Lafontant, offered itself as a mediator, to establish dialogue and find a solution to the problem between the clashing corps!

Fugitive Detectives Said Posted in Labadie

FL2306195189 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Report by Soleil reporter Morrison Charles]

[Excerpts] In a news conference held on 21 June at KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity] headquarters on Champ de Mars Street, members of the MJL [Labadie Youth Movement] denounced the Calvary they are continuing to have to climb because of area authorities.

The speakers said the military authorities of Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite are exerting heavy pressure in an attempt to intimidate the MJL youths.

They report that on the night of 16 June at around 0200, three truckloads of soldiers headed by the commanding officer in Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite went from door to door among the peasant houses looking for MJL members. After this search operation, which led to no arrests, the area authorities on 17 June installed four soldiers at a new outpost they set up in Labadie. The young people said they have heard the soldiers say that this post has been set up in the area so as to water down the MJL's wine, so to speak.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] On Sunday 18 June 1989, the soldiers posted at this outpost held a meeting with the peasants in the area. This meeting was held exclusively to discuss the MJL's activities in the area. The sergeant in charge of the post made many statements. He said that except for the Catholic and Protestant Churches, no one had a right to hold any meetings in the area without authorization from the police. He also said that, should the police ever authorize a meeting, there had to be a member of the Armed Forces present at the meeting. He said they acknowledge no leader in the area. Finally, he said that what he was saying was a message from the general president, because it was the general president who had ordered the outpost set up.

In addition to all these vile acts, they are also circulating many other rumors, such as that the members of the MJL have military materials and are in contact with certain former soldiers. [end recording]

According to the MJL, this new outpost they have installed in the area is causing the young people in Labadie much concern—not so much because of the outpost itself but because of the kind of people the youths say have been assigned to the outpost as detectives.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] They are people from Labadie. And allow us to explain this to you: The public prosecutor has issued a warrant for these men in connection with their participation in the 14 August 1988 massacre and in the attack on Labadie perpetrated by men wearing red armbands. These men are Denater Saintisna, for whose arrest there is a warrant out, as everybody knows; Damas Guillaume, Alder Guillaume, Nevers Jean-Baptiste, Ozik Cherubin, Rony Emile, and so forth. It is all these men who are now detectives at the outpost and whom the commanding officer [words indistinct] made a report saying that they had all fled into hiding, and they have installed themselves at the police outpost as detectives. [passage omitted]

No arrests were made, but they went around knocking at people's doors asking who was a member of the MJL and who was not, and where the members' houses were. That was on 16 June, right? And on Saturday, 17 June, they set up a military outpost in Labadie. This outpost has a four-person staff. (?As in the) declaration, there are four soldiers at the outpost—plus some 10 detectives! Some

of these detectives are people they claimed were in hiding; they issued warrants for their arrest but never arrested them, and now here they are again, detectives, with rifles in their hands.

We must also tell you that not only are these guys detectives and among those who were shooting at people on 14 August, but they are also thieves. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Well, gentlemen, I see that not only are you asking for the human rights organizations to intervene but you are also asking the press to go out there and check this out. But how about you young people, for your part? What strategy are you going to employ in view of this situation?

[Speaker] Well, everybody has to help us, because we are in a difficult situation. And especially you, Morrison, who has already gone out there once. We would like for you to go back out and see for yourself what is going on out there. [end recording]

Labadie is the third rural section of Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite. It is 12 km from Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite. [passage omitted]

The young people of Labadie want to continue functioning, despite the authorities' warning. (?What kind of future) is in store for Labadie?

Hooded Thieves Attack Carrefour Residence

FL2306151589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] A group of thieves wearing hoods over their heads [in the minds of Haitians, hooded thieves are associated with the Francois Duvalier era] and armed with big, heavy-caliber weapons broke into a private residence on Lamentin 54 in the Carrefour section of Port-au-Prince Wednesday night [21 June]. They heavily pressured the occupants and stole all the household equipment and electrical appliances the people owned. Also, they tried to rape the women in the house before departing.

We have also learned that threats have been made against two or three other houses in this same neighborhood, Lamentin 54, and that the residents have informed the police.

Groups Cited on La Tortue Island Issue

FL2406152989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Report by Les Cayes correspondent Raymond Clerge]

[Excerpts] In a press release, the National Organization of Literacy and Awareness-Raising Youth Groups, Onajac, is calling on all other popular organizations struggling for a complete change in Haiti to form a chain of solidarity in order to save the Island of La Tortue, which is almost sold. Onajac says that in the same way that the Haitian Government is signing a contract to sell the Haitian agricultural laborers [preceding word in Spanish, "braceros"] in the Dominican Republic, so too, the Island of La Tortue, which is almost sold, has almost become another Panama Canal.

Onajac raises its voice in warning against this threat hanging over Haiti because the Americans are going to humiliate Haitians on La Tortue Island the same way they currently humiliate Haitians in the United States.

Finally, Onajac asks Lund International to remove the idea of [words indistinct] and asks the Haitian people to remain mobilized, for it is up to the masses to defend the interests of the masses.

Also, the Unity Movement of the People of Les Cayes, MUPAC, supports the campaign of mobilization launched by ANOP [National Alliance of People's Organizations] nationwide over the high cost of living and insecurity. [passage omitted] The authorities are allowing the price of basic commodities to continue to rise to the advantage of the bigshots. Therefore, MUPAC asks all the Haitian people to rise up to block this train of poverty. It also asks the population to hold meetings and seek to discover the causes of the high cost of living, and also to seek who is responsible for them.

MUPAC says: Alone, we are weak; however, together we constitute an avalanche.

This is Raymond Clerge, Radio Soleil, Les Cayes.

Ministry Denies Report on Soldiers Conduct

FL2406152089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Here is a press release from the Ministry of Information and Coordination, which we will read.

[Words indistinct] that appeared in the newspaper LE MATIN, 27-29 May 1989 edition, reproaching—based on reports it had heard—a group of 44 members of the Haitian Armed Forces for improper conduct toward the proprietor of a restaurant in Port-de-Paix, the Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Coordination and Information informs the public that an investigation was conducted into the matter in Port-de-Paix, and that the investigation revealed that no such incident ever occurred.

According to the Ministry of Information, Mrs Elina Jean-Louis, the proprietor of the restaurant, which is located at the corner of (Montas) and Capois La Mort Streets, denied anything like this had ever happened—and even denied the report over a local radio station. The Ministry of Information says the report is unfounded. [passage omitted]

Here is what LE MATIN wrote in its 27-29 May edition: We at LE MATIN think the military authorities are going to instruct the soldiers from the Dessalines Barracks and the Leopard Corps who are in the provinces to not behave like wolves toward our compatriots in the rural areas—and particularly to not follow the bad example (?reported by) the correspondents of Radio Haiti-Inter and Radio Metropole of the soldiers in Port-de-Paix, 44 who refused to pay the bill after having eaten and drunk their fill at a popular restaurant.

LE MATIN writes: According to the correspondents, the soldiers also threatened to beat or kill the restaurant's proprietor, because she protested and yelled, demanding to be paid, after the soldiers had eaten their fill.

This report, then, which appeared in the 27-29 May issue of LE MATIN is the report the Ministry of Information denies, on 21 June 1989.

Conacom Demands Release of Arrested Member

FL2406150889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Conacom [National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements] protests the arrest of one of its members in Pilate. Conacom considers the arrest arbitrary, protests, and demands the unconditional release of Thomas Ordena, who is a Conacom representative and an official of the small farmers agricultural cooperative of Pilate.

Conacom also demands that the documents seized during Thomas Ordena's arrest by the commanding officer of the subdistrict of Pilate be returned. According to Conacom this arrest constitutes a violation of human rights and the continuation of repression in Haiti.

In its press release, Conacom says it reserves the right to undertake any legal action that may be necessary.

Citizens Evicted From Future CEP Headquarters

FL2406150489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] It seems the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] is going to have its headquarters in the former locale of Sonavesa [Societe Nationale de Vehicules S.A., a looted former BMW dealership belonging to Ernest Bennett, father of Michele Bennett Duvalier], and several dozen people who have been living in the building are now facing eviction. A soldier appeared at the building yesterday morning and demanded that the inhabitants of the building leave the building on their own accord. If not, they will be forced to leave.

These people are now at their wits' end and are demanding that the military government provide them with another place to live. They are all Haitians who had lived in the Dominican Republic for a long time and who came back to Haiti after the departure of Jean-Claude Duvalier to set up housekeeping in Haiti once again, hoping for a better future. They were taken in hand upon arrival by Centre Carl Leveque and the Ecumenical Mutual Assistance Service [Service Eucumenique d'Entraide].

According to certain sources, this building is going to be given to the CEP, which is being housed temporarily at the Legislative Palace. The Haitian Government is reportedly going to have to empty Sonavesa in order to put the CEP there.

L'UNION Announces New Drivers Union

FL2206162089 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French No 157, 21 Jun 89 p 3

[From the "...Echos...Echos..." column]

[Text] The turbulent world of the drivers unions has just given birth to a new union: UCPP, Private and Public Drivers Union of Port-au-Prince [Union des Conducteurs Prives et Publics de Port-au-Prince]. The new drivers union is affiliated to CATH/CLAT [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers affiliated to the Latin American Central Organization of Workers].

The UCPP immediately summoned all the nation's drivers to a general assembly meeting on 22 June at CATH/CLAT headquarters to calmly discuss matters connected with the increased price of gasoline and with the transfer of Major Pongnon.

Jamaica

Prime Minister Manley Praises EEC Market

FL2306170889 Bridgetown CANA in English 2123 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, June 22, CANA—Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley had said that the establishment of a single European Market in 1992 will mean a stronger Europe with a greater surplus in need of outlets for investment.

Speaking at a function hosted by the West India Committee in London, Manley said he intended to put Jamaica and the Caribbean in the path of these investments.

Manley is in London, part of a four-nation tour of Europe including talks with members of the Paris Club on Jamaica's burgeoning foreign debt.

The Jamaican prime minister said that he saw the formation of the single European Market in 1992 as positive and as inevitable as the free trade pact between Canada and the United States.

On the issue of a united Caribbean region, the Jamaican prime minister said that he was committed to the Caribbean "not as an exercise in political rhetoric, but as an area of economic co-operation leading to economic rationalisation and eventually to economic integration."

Local Government Elections Postponed

FL2306160189 Bridgetown CANA in English 2252 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, June 22, CANA—Local government elections here, due to be held this month, have been postponed until June 1990.

During debate on a bill seeking the postponement, local Government Minister Ralph Brown said that a postponement was necessary to allow for the updating of the voters list which is expected to be completed by September this year. In addition, he said, the electoral office needed time to finish a review of parish council divisions in 13 of the 60 constituencies. In 1985 the Seaga government reduced the number of divisions from 278 to 189 as part of a rationalisation programme. At the time the People's National Party [PNP] disagreed with the move saying the government was emasculating the local government authority.

The last local government elections which were held on July 29, 1985, were won by the PNP. It was the first time that a government in power had lost these elections.

In recent times, the local government elections have assumed increasing importance as their results are viewed as a referendum on the government's performance. It also reflects the political mood of the country.

Attorney-general Carl Rattray speaking in the debate noted that local government was the bedrock of the island's democracy. It was time, he said, for it to be recognised in the Jamaican Constitution.

"I say this because it is a fact that the Jamaican Constitution has nothing to say about local government and its place in the scheme of things, democratically in this country."

The former government of Edward Seaga was often criticised by the PNP and others of trying to dismantle the island's local government structure. A number of functions administered by the parish councils were taken away and placed with the central government.

Since taking office, the Manley government has returned the responsibility of some of these functions to the parish councils.

Government To Provide Over 24,000 Jobs

FL2406161889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1535 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, June 24, CANA—The Jamaican Government is to launch a public works programme to provide more than 24,000 jobs over the next five years, according to Minister of Development Production and Planning P.J. Patterson.

Patterson reported that the government planned to create about 12,000 full-time jobs and a larger number of part-time jobs. The programme will focus mainly on depressed areas and on the rural poor, he reported.

Patterson was giving details of his government's Human Resource Development Programme in parliament. The programme is reported to be a modified version of the Seaga government's Social Well-Being Project introduced towards the end of its term in office and which was intended to improve areas including health and education. The Social Well-Being Programme was one of the major schemes on which Edward Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party fought the recent general election.

Work, Patterson said, had begun on identifying financing and some commitments had been given. The government, he reported, was presently fine-tuning the package and was continuing discussions with various donor agencies to ensure early implementation.

Negotiations, he said, had been completed with the World Bank with respect to a Human Resources Development Sector Loan and the project was scheduled for presentation. Approval was expected shortly, he remarked.

Outlining areas of emphasis, Patterson said the programme included a range of innovative policies to improve delivery of health care, providing adequate nutrition to the needy and poor, and putting a greater focus on pre-primary and primary education.

Trinidad and Tobago

Labor Group Announces New Political Party

FL2106141689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1543 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Fyzabad, South Trinidad, June 20, CANA—The labour-based grouping, the committee for Labour Solidarity (CLS), says it will launch Trinidad and Tobago's second new political party for 1989 on August 13. President general of the southern-based Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU), Errol McLeod, told Labour Day celebrations in Fyzabad, south Trinidad, on Monday that the CLS party would push for a new Caribbean federation. The CLS's party will be Trinidad and Tobago's second new party to be launched this year following the April 30 establishment of the United National Congress (UNC), formed by a breakaway group of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

The CLS grouping came together in the early 1980's following a fall-out with politicians who are now at the helm of the UNC party.

"We have been working for the past eight years," McLeod told the annual Labour Day rally, held under the aegis of the council of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU). "Everybody else has had their chance and they

have made a mess of the political, social, and economic life of Trinidad and Tobago. The only people who have never had a chance are the workers and ordinary people themselves," McLeod said. "And today, we see more than we have seen in the past that it is only when the workers and the people come together, it is only when the workers and the people swear allegiance to mother Trinidad and Tobago and forget (differences) ... that we can move forward for the development of a society that is just and moral," he continued.

McLeod said more information on the new party, first announced in mid-1988, would be given at a later date. McLeod did, however, state that the party would deny membership to no one except managers of multinational corporations, whom he accused out their citizenship and having no allegiance to Trinidad and Tobago. "This party...is going to represent the interests of the workers, the unemployed, those people who consider themselves of the middle class, teachers, nurses, doctors, progressive intellectuals, the farmers, the unemployed, the youth, and we are going to be going throughout the length and breadth of Trinidad and Tobago preaching the message dealing with the issues that affect us as a result of IMF (International Monetary Fund) conditionality...sovereignty...Caribbean federation...so that together we can be a people that will be forging our own destiny...everybody, including trade union leaders," McLeod said.

"Everybody in the Caribbean wants to be a big fish in a small pond. The time for that is long past and if we are to hold onto our own piece of territory and decide that I have to be leader of this and I will not get together with the rest because if I get together with the rest I am likely to lose my position as leader, we will lose our position anyway," McLeod said. [sentence as received] "We have security in our numbers. Let us come together..."

OAS Not To 'Worsen' Panamanian Situation

PA2106190789 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 14 Jun 89 p 22

[Editorial: "Vindication or End of the OAS"]

[Text] The Central American situation continues to determine the present and future state of relations among the countries of our continent. It is important for the Latin American governments to face objectively the incongruity between U.S. rhetoric about strengthening the OAS and the U.S. implementation of diplomatic and military initiatives, whose visible result is the obstruction of the efforts entrusted to the special OAS mission sent to Panama.

When the participants in the contentious 21st OAS consultative session decided to send the negotiating mission led by Ecuadoran Diego Cordovez, they clearly asked the parties involved in the Panamanian crisis to refrain from undertaking actions that would worsen the situation. Although directed at the Panamanians, the appeal should also have been heeded by the foreign intermediaries. Nevertheless, the U.S. refuses to accept the appeal, launching an open campaign to gain support for its objective of isolating an alleged alliance formed by Cuba, Nicaragua, and Panama.

This was the objective behind Vice President Dan Quayle's visit to four Central American countries, which ended yesterday [13 June]. His repeated invective against one of the key players in the Panamanian crisis seemed to be aimed at pressuring the OAS foreign ministers. As if this were not enough, U.S. Southern Command troops stationed in Panama staged provocative maneuvers near the Panamanian installation where the Panama Defense Forces leaders and the OAS delegation were meeting.

While Quayle ended his visit by taking to Washington an undeniable consensus from the presidents with whom he met regarding Nicaragua and Panama, the OAS mission left Panama practically empty-handed. The stagnation of the mission's efforts makes one think of a race against time from which the United States hopes to profit by promoting multilateral measures against Panama.

The deadline given to the OAS negotiators expires in a month. It would be premature to speak of their failure, but events over the past 3 days leave no doubt about who is the most interested in such a failure. Latin America should be aware that the imperialist power wants to lead us to a fictitious polarization between blocs. Contrary to what the U.S. OAS ambassador believes, resolving the Panamanian crisis through intervention would be the beginning of the end of an organization that still has time to vindicate itself if it decides to enforce the principle of nonintervention.

Editorial Views PAN's Election Hopes

PA2206041189 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 18 Jun 89 p 3

[Editorial: "National Action Party: Between Hope and Reality"]

[Text] On 1 December 1988, the leadership of the National Action Party [PAN] began an open and meaningful dialogue with Carlos Salinas de Gortari's administration. The dialogue is centered on a very important element: electoral reform. PAN leaders, particularly Jesus Gonzalez Schmall and Abel Vicencio Tovar, two of the leading promoters of the dialogue, have said on many occasions that amendments to the federal electoral law and the results of the local elections scheduled for 2 July must be at the heart of the negotiations.

Without question, the work on the amendments to the electoral law—which had advanced at such a fast clip until April—is now paralyzed. Angered by what it characterized as foot-dragging by the Institutional Revolutionary Party and the Cardenists, PAN announced on 15 June that it is temporarily withdrawing from the legislative commission in charge of doing this work. Warning that the foot-dragging stemmed from an intention to commit fraud in Baja California and Chihuahua States, which are two PAN strongholds, the blue-and-white [PAN's colors] party also launched an intensive propaganda campaign on the alleged plans to commit fraud in those two states.

PAN acted correctly in at least one of the cases. It apparently managed to obtain evidence that ballots had been stolen in Chihuahua and filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office, just as it did when it obtained information about the so-called Operation Handyman [Operacion Manitas]. However, regarding other PAN complaints, the same old problem continues to exist: To charge, for instance, that the voter lists in Baja California were tampered with is one thing and to prove it is another. The question is, one has to present evidence.

This is appropriate to note here, because the honesty of the elections is being judged, not on the basis of the process itself, but on the basis of the results. When Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, Tovar, and other PAN leaders claim that PAN will win in Baja California and Chihuahua if the results are respected, they are confusing their expectations with the possibilities. Nobody denies that the white-and-blue party is a powerhouse in those two states—or that Cardenas is strong in Michoacan—but saying their victory is the only possibility sounds more like blackmail than a political contention.

Nobody can tell who will win in those states. However, what must be demanded is not that one of the two parties win but that the elections be absolutely clean—from the preparation of the voter lists to the election itself. If PAN has any evidence, as in the case of Chihuahua, it must file a complaint and have the pertinent authorities

investigate it and adopt appropriate measures. Like the rest of the parties, PAN must be completely certain the elections will be clean, which will be the administration's real challenge regarding democratization. However, there is quite a distance between doing this and claiming victory before the citizens have had an opportunity to make their choice; this attitude not only unnecessarily muddles the nation's political atmosphere but represents a show of disrespect for the voters, who are going to decide for whom to vote on 2 July.

World Bank Grants $20 Million for Agriculture

PA2106194789 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 16 Jun 89 p 16

[Report by Luz Arcelia Camarena]

[Summary] The World Bank has granted a $20-million loan to Mexico to promote agricultural research and training to be carried out by the National Institute for Forestry and Farming Research (IFIAP). The funds will be used to promote organization, training, technical assistance, and research programs in the states of Jalisco, San Luis Potosi, Nayarit, Oaxaca, Puebla, and Sonora. The programs are intended to increase production and will benefit 4,000 farmers.

Creditor Banks Offer 30-Percent Debt Cut

PA2406192689 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The creditor banks yesterday formally offered the Mexican Government a 30-percent reduction of Mexico's foreign commercial debt. This is equivalent to approximately $60 million and is nearly 60 percent of Mexico's total foreign debt. Mexican sources, however, termed the percentage insufficient because it falls short of the objective of lowering debt payments from 6 to 2 percent of the GNP.

Pedro Aspe, Mexican secretary of finance and public credit, and Finance Under Secretary Jose Angel Gurria met in Washington with IMF Managing Director Michael Camdessus and World Bank President Barber B. Conable, Jr.

During Aspe's surprise visit, he talked with a number of bankers who attended an event to commemorate THE WALL STREET JOURNAL's centennial.

Hurricane Cosme Leaves Thousands Isolated

PA2506202489 Paris AFP in Spanish 1951 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Jun (AFP)—Approximately 150,000 peasants have been isolated by floods in the Mexican region of La Montana caused by hurricane Cosme. There is little information on the number of victims, various sources in the area have stated.

Cosme hit the region—approximately 200 km south of the capital—on Thursday, and heavy rains caused rivers to overflow, flooding the area and destroying hundreds of houses, most of them built with cardboard and adobe.

Initial estimates indicate there are at least 30 victims, counting the corpses of people pulled out of rivers and those who have been reported missing.

The mountainous zone is hard to contact by telephone, there is little electricity, and supply problems have started—mostly because highways have been washed away and secondary roads are blocked.

The authorities and rescue teams are covering the region to help the people and calculate the damage. They have begun a large-scale vaccination campaign.

Costa Rica

Arias on Panamanian Campaign Contributions

PA2306154889 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Referring to charges made in the United States on contributions given to Costa Rican political parties, President Oscar Arias said that no president should be made prisoner by a campaign contributor. Arias said that no president should do what someone, rich or poor, who contributed to a political campaign asks him to do. Arias said that if this were to happen, then we would have something to regret; however, it has never happened in Costa Rica, and hopefully it never will.

As long as the law is not amended, the political parties will continue to look everywhere for money, Arias said. He added that, fortunately, he has only been presidential candidate once. He said that he has admitted that drug proceeds reached his party, which he regrets. Had he known where the money was coming from, Arias said, he would not have accepted it. Arias Sanchez said that the money was accepted because it was believed that the contributors were decent people; the party did not know how the contributors made their money because this is never asked.

When asked whether his party had received $750,000 during the 1985 campaign, President Arias Sanchez said that he doubts that such an amount was given to any one party. Arias said that he did not know if Panama's Democratic Revolutionary Party—of which General Manuel Antonio Noriega [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces] is a member—gave the National Liberation Party [PLN] any money nor how much it gave. However, he admitted that the PLN and the Social Christian Unity Party [PUSC] have received contributions from friendly parties abroad. He said that the PUSC may have received more money because the Social Christian parties have more money than the Social Democratic parties.

Politician Denies Receiving Money From Noriega

PA2306145789 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] In statements before the Legislative Commission on Drug Trafficking, Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Social Christian Party deputy candidate, said that Jose Blandon's report to a U.S. Senate subcommittee is inaccurate. That report claimed that Rodriguez received part of the money Noriega [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces] gave the Unity Party. According to Blandon, Miguel Angel Rodriguez received part of the donation that Gen Noriega gave the Unity Party during a past campaign.

Miguel Angel Rodriguez emphatically denied knowing Jose Blandon, former Panamanian consul in New York, or Gen Noriega. He said that he has always opposed the Panamanian dictatorships and that he has always been the first to speak up against them.

The politician yesterday gave the commission a copy of his passport and proof that he does not own a small plane. According to Blandon, Rodriguez used a light aircraft to pick up money in Chiriqui Province, Panama. Rodriguez also presented a detailed report on the dates he traveled abroad.

When asked whether he would object to the commission's looking into his bank accounts, Rodriguez said that he had no objections. He said that he has always been willing to help in the struggle against drug trafficking in Costa Rica and recalled that in 1978 he visited the Attorney General's Office three times to request investigations into the activities of several persons. Meanwhile, Rodrigo Echeverria [not further identified] has also denied having received money from Gen Noriega.

Foreign Minister Comments on Debt, Nicaragua

PA2506023689 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto has stated at a Group of 77 meeting in Venezuela that one of the main reasons for the economic crisis is the foreign debt. He said: We must develop creative new ways so that our poor countries, which do not have much capital, can again be the recipients of financial resources.

In this regard, he said there should be a way to use the capital that has been taken out of our countries and placed in commercial banks of the industrialized world. He said that the international community has the challenge of reducing the enormous gap that exists between rich and poor nations and of promoting sustained economic and social development in the underdeveloped countries to safeguard democratic values and enhance human dignity.

The foreign minister said that another challenge is to convince the industrialized world that it must contribute to a common cause. He said that the countries in the south cannot accept, either politically or morally, this gap or allow it to grow. He said that no one can speak of solidarity and international cooperation as long as the world is polarized with a few rich on one side and many poor on the other, abundance on one hand and hunger and misery on the other.

Turning to regional issues, Minister Madrigal Nieto said Nicaragua's electoral law does not guarantee free and clean elections. He said his government supports the consolidation of true democracy in Nicaragua. Madrigal Nieto pointed out that President Ortega promised, along

with other Central American heads of state, to take the necessary steps to guarantee freedom of expression and to reform electoral and media laws to permit clean elections.

Minister Madrigal Nieto noted that the measures that have been adopted in Nicaragua are not sufficiently clear to guarantee a free process. He said that the opposition presented 70 amendment proposals to the electoral law but that the Sandinist regime did not consider any of them.

The minister said that in Nicaragua there is no legitimate civil registry since voter lists have not been updated and include the names of deceased persons. There is no electoral census, and the Electoral Tribunal is not well balanced since most of its members are Sandinists, the Costa Rican foreign minister added.

El Salvador

Cristiani Confirms Attendance at New Summit

PA2306224889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2154 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has confirmed that his country will participate in the summit of Central American presidents in Honduras that was originally scheduled for 7-9 July and postponed for 14-16 July.

It was announced in Tegucigalpa today that Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and Honduran President Jose Azcona, respectively, agreed to postpone the meeting.

Cristiani said that 8 July, the 2d day of the meeting as originally scheduled, is the date of Argentine President-elect Carlos Menem's inauguration, which Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, among other chiefs of state, will attend.

The Salvadoran president, who replaced Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte on 1 June, will be attending a meeting of Central American presidents for the first time. He said that he will not attending the Menem inauguration because he is "preparing for the summit."

He added that he does not know whether Guatemala and Nicaragua have confirmed attendance at the summit on the new dates.

This will be the presidents' fifth meeting since May 1986. They will discuss the progress of the peace process known as "Esquipulas II," to which they subscribed in Guatemala on 7 August 1987.

The summit was postponed because some of the foreign ministers, including Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, will attend the Argentine president-elect's inauguration .

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto indicated in Caracas on Tuesday that Ortega may be the only Central American president to attend the Menem inauguration.

Amendments to Penal Legislation Submitted

PA2506152389 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 24 Jun 89 p 39

[Text] It is the state's duty to provide national authorities with the legal tools needed to protect the individual rights of Salvadorans from barbaric acts of terrorism and attacks by Marxist-Leninists.

This is stated in a proposal for amendments to the Penal Code and the Procedural Penal Code submitted by President Alfredo Cristiani, through his Council of Ministers, to the Legislative Assembly. The document was delivered to the Legislation and Constitutional Issues Commission, which will study it and issue an opinion.

Among the Executive Branch's main proposals for amending penal legislation is to toughen punishment for terrorist crimes. The current Procedural Penal Code allows for the release of criminals with jail sentences of up to 3 years. The amendments call for maximum jail sentences of 1-35 years and minimum sentences of 1-5 years.

The proposed amendments also call for jail sentences for Salvadorans who promote foreign meddling in national affairs while in other countries.

The amendments contemplate jail sentences for those who disseminate doctrinal propaganda that is contrary to democracy or introduce printed material of similar nature for use on radio or television. This is contained in Article 377 of the proposed amendments to the Penal Code.

A proposed amendment to Article 379 calls for jail sentences for citizens holding material in their offices, homes, or elsewhere that is considered subversive by the proper authorities.

The crimes of kidnapping and planning or testing actions to disturb public order, which are considered attempted terrorist acts, would also be punished should proposed amendments to Article 403 of the Penal Code be approved.

Article 408 deals with public threats and pertains to those who threaten other people in public or through other means, and thus violate their individual rights. This article also calls for punishing individuals who damage public buildings or private property by painting slogans on them or through other actions.

Also, citizens who refuse to cooperate with authorities in the investigation of acts of vandalism or terrorrism will be punished with jail sentences of 1-2 years. Furthermore, judicial authorities who refuse to conduct investigations will be punished accordingly.

Upon receiving the Executive Branch's motion, the plenum of the Legislative Assembly began political debate. Deputies of the National Conciliation Party [PCN] and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] openly opposed it. Dr Guillermo Antonio Guevara Lacayo, deputy of the Authentic Christian Movement [MAC], underscored the need to discuss the amendments proposed by the Executive Branch to prevent violating the individual rights of Salvadorans.

Meanwhile, deputies of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA], urged opposition deputies "to avoid being biased toward the amendments project, the sole purpose of which is to provide the legal means needed to punish terrorists and achieve peace."

[ARENA Deputy] Mauricio Zablah said that "no one wants to see the individual rights of Salvadorans violated, but most Salvadorans do not want to continue to allow the libertinism that has degenerated into terrorism."

The plenum of the Legislative Assembly also extended until 31 December 1989 the expiration date of personal identity cards that would have expired on the last day this month.

The Dialogue Commission proposed by President Alfredo Cristiani has four members so far and the appointment of other local politicians is pending confirmation. Among the personalities who confirmed to President Cristiani their willingness to help resolve the crisis that is afflicting El Salvador are: Dr Francisco Jose Guerrero, current president of the Supreme Court of Justice, whose term expires on 30 June;

Dr David Escobar Galindo, prominent Salvadoran writer, who was nominated by the president of the Republic and subsequently chosen to be a member of the Dialogue Commission;

MAC leader Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes;

Dr Mario Reni Roldan, who agreed to be a member of the commission as representative of the Social Christian Party, PSC [as published], but who is waiting for the "approval" of the Democratic Convergence; and

Dr Pablo Mauricio Alvergue, who agreed to represent the PDC and who is also waiting for confirmation.

It is expected that President Cristiani will swear in this commission, which will include representatives of other social segments of the country, late next week.

Cristiani Denies Devaluation Planned

PA2406192089 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani today denied the government is preparing an economic package or planning to devalue the Salvadoran currency.

[Begin Cristiani recording] Strong rumors have been circulating that the government is planning to implement an economic package, just as the Christian Democratic Party did. But this is not true. We have been studying the country's economy to determine the true situation. Corrective measures will be taken as necessary. In this regard, we are trying to coordinate the actions of the different agencies where measures will be taken so they can support the general framework of our government platform. [end recording]

As for the formation of a commission to talk with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], Cristiani said that two of the six people who have been asked to serve on the commission have not yet replied and that an announcement will be made as soon as the commission is formed. He also confirmed that Costa Rican President Oscar Arias will come to San Salvador and that the two presidents will meet.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] Arias will arrive on 25 June to watch the soccer game between Costa Rica and El Salvador. We will have lunch together and talk a little before the game. Then we will go to the stadium.

[Reporter] Will the Salvadoran currency be devalued as has been rumored?

[Cristiani] That is not true. [end recording]

The reporters approached Cristiani after he attended the graduation ceremony at the Military School today. In his address, the president stressed the need for military discipline within a framework of respect for man's dignity.

Government Guerrilla Dialogue Commission Formed

PA2406032989 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Report by Mauricio Funes on statement by Authentic Christian Movement Deputy Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes on 23 June; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] MAC [Authentic Christian Movement] Deputy Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes disclosed this morning that he will be a member of the government commission that will hold talks with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], but would not say who the other members of the official negotiating group are.

Rey Prendes said he had accepted President Cristiani's offer to be part of the dialogue commission because of the possibilities this presidential initiative provides for a political solution to the military conflict.

[Rey Prendes] "When I learned who the other members of the dialogue commission were and the way it is structured, with a certain working autonomy to seek peace, I did not hesitate to accept his offer."

The MAC leader said he was not authorized to disclose the names of the other commission members who will be part of this negotiating team. He did say that they were politicians who enjoy credibility and confidence, even with the FMLN.

[Rey Prendes] "I hope it works. I believe the commission is here to stay, which is very important and something the FMLN and the FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front] have been asking about ever since the La Palma meetings. They did not want sporadic calls to dialogue, but a permanent commission. Some have criticized these talks because no specific topics were proposed by the president in his speech. I believe that the great advantage is that we can sit down and simply talk without a previously agreed upon agenda—which has always been and always will be a hindrance for any discussion."

On the flexiblity of action this commission will have, Rey Prendes said that it will depend on the government, and once all members are confirmed to their posts they will have to get together to define their working limits. Just as President Cristiani had announced, the government dialogue commission will be ready next week, awaiting a reply from the guerrillas.

15,000 March in San Salvador Urging FMLN Talks

PA2306140489 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1209 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Approximately 15,000 people, representatives of the 75 organizations composing the Permanent Committee for National Debate, marched down the main streets of San Salvador yesterday to demand that President Alfredo Cristiani resume talks with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] rebels. The march began at the Americas Square—also known as the Savior of the World Square—and ended, hours later, at the Gerardo Barrios Civic Center, where a peaceful protest demonstration was held. No unfortunate incidents were reported.

Reverend Edgar Palacios said that a document expressing the feelings of the Salvadoran people on the current situation and suggesting possible solutions has been drafted and will soon be presented to the Armed Forces, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Legislative Assembly, and the FMLN for review.

Government Repudiates Attack on Nuns

PA2306130489 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1207 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The Salvadoran Government has repudiated the 21 June attack against nuns who work in the Oscar Arnulfo Romero neighborhood. Irish nun Mary Stanislaus MacKey was seriously wounded in the attack.

A statement issued by the government adds that, as soon as the authorities learned of the attack, an investigation was ordered to find the culprits and determine their motives.

The government notes that preliminary evidence indicates common criminals were responsible for the attack. When the attackers are identified, the statement adds, they will be found and punished.

Rebels Condemn 'Death Squad' Attack

PA2406001089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Death squads attacked a U.S. nun. Mary Stanislaus MacKey, a nun who has lived in Houston, Texas for 50 years, was seriously wounded by six armed men dressed as civilians. They machinegunned the vehicle in which she was traveling in Zaragoza, La Libertad Department. The attack on the U.S. nun, who has been involved for more than 6 years in humanitarian work in San Salvador aiding war orphans, is the latest victim in a list of crimes and attacks on nuns and on missionaries of Christian communities in general that have been staged by the death squads, which regard everybody as communists.

Nobody can forget the list of persons and entities that Major Roberto D'Aubuisson linked with international communists while on a tour of garrisons and newspaper agencies. The list included Msgr Arnulfo Romero as liaison for the Communist Party. He was later assassinated. Catholic priests have been constantly persecuted, and the victims are countless. Now that the death squad members are in the government, the repressive actions with the unquestionable mark of the death squads have become a daily occurrence. The general situation of repression against any person or sector who expresses or represents opposition to the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] government is truly one that causes concern.

Long before Cristiani's inauguration, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] submitted a political proposal to the political parties and to the government to contribute toward creating conditions favorable for dialogue and negotiation. Logically, having a situation favorable for dialogue and negotiation necessarily means ending the repressive and criminal policy against the popular, democratic sectors. But Cristiani did not reply and did not halt the repression. On the

contrary, he increased the repressive actions. He submitted a package of economic measures that are alarmingly repressive for the popular classes. He topped it off by presenting a general law on repression, which sought to curb the people's reaction and protests.

One cannot speak of dialogue in a climate of crime and repression, as ARENA thinks. To sit down at the same table to talk with those responsible for a policy that promotes attacks such as that on 21 June against the U.S. nun would be tantamount to accepting its crimes and abetting repression, which the FMLN will never do.

FMLN Blames ARENA for Bomb Attack at Market

PA2506143189 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to EL Salvador 1300 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) on 23 June in San Salvador]

[Text] Concerning the terrorist attack on Friday, 23 June at the San Salvador Central Market in which 2 people were killed and 30 wounded, the FMLN reports to all Salvadorans the following:

1. That the hurling of the bomb at the central market was a terrorist action by the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] Government, specifically by the Armed Forces high command. This action is part of a cold-blooded plan that consists of criminal actions in public places designed to turn people against the FMLN.

2. We hold Colonel Mauricio Guzman Aguilar—who acquired experience in this kind of criminal action when he commanded the 5th Brigade—responsible for this treacherous terrorist action. This terrorist action complements the current policy of repression by the Alfredo Cristiani regime.

We condemn terrorism ARENA's death squad terrorism [words indistinct] crimes will not go unpunished.
San Salvador, 23 June 1989;
Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front

1 Dead, 37 Wounded

PA2306192389 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1750 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Report by Nelson Lopez]

[Text] There was a terrorist attack at the San Salvador central market today. A bomb was thrown at the Marvin soda shop, which is by the southern entrance to the market. There is no information on those responsible for this action, which has caused casualties. We received a report that one person has died at the Rosales Hospital. She was taken along with approximately 20 other people to the Rosales Hospital. We were told that this explosion wounded 37 persons, some seriously. We repeat that we do not know who was responsible for this action, which has brought grief and mourning to many families who go to the market to buy or sell products. The explosion left a big hole in the tin roof of the Marvin soda shop. The force of the explosion and the shrapnel injured many people. We were told that one person had serious head wounds while another had serious abdominal wounds.

Coprefa Reports Activities Throughout Country

PA2306210789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1400 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Early this morning the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] issued a complete report on war activity throughout the country. This activity increased yesterday and early this morning in various areas of eastern and central El Salvador. According to Coprefa's report, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] rebels suffered 14 dead and 8 wounded during military activities near La Palma. The same report adds that two rebels were killed and three wounded during clashes in the hamlet of Los Garcias, in the Yoloaiquin Jurisdiction, Morazan Department. Another recent attack was reported in La Laguna, Chalatenango Department, where the Army reports killing two and wounding five FMLN rebels.

As we reported earlier, the rebels claim inflicting 38 casualties, including 13 dead, on the Army. This was reported by clandestine Radio Venceremos.

Rebels Attack Civil Defense, Guard Posts

PA2306162889 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Report by Ariel Segovia]

[Text] FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] rebels attacked Apopa, approximately 12 km north of San Salvador, between 0000 and 0100 today. According to reports we have received, the rebels attacked Civil Defense and National Guard positions. In a simultaneous attack, the rebels destroyed the ESSO gas station located on the northern trunk road across from INSINCA [Synthetics Industry of Central America]. Four bombs destroyed the gas pumps. Civilian sources report that the rebels killed the guards at the gas station and seized their rifles and cartridges. Military sources have not yet confirmed this attack.

We have learned that Pantera Battalion positions in Suchitoto were also attacked last night. This is the second attack in 2 days against these posts. We have not yet received reports on casualties.

Likewise, at km - 64, near La Mica Coffee Processing Plant between Chalchuapa and Santa Ana, unidentified individuals machinegunned a yellow Toyota truck, license plate No 69862. The driver was traveling from San Salvador to Ahuachapan when he was ambushed by the unidentified men. Only material damage was reported.

In addition, official sources report that an urban commando unit's bomb partially destroyed a power pole on 75th Avenue North and Ismania Street. A large area was left without power as a result of this attack.

FMLN Reports Roundup of 22-23 June Actions

PA2406023689

[Editorial Report] Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT 24 June carries a 7-minute report on recent military actions by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

The report begins: "At 1300 on 22 June, a guerrilla unit ambushed a National Guard truck in Santa Ana jurisdiction."

The report goes on: "We have news from San Miguel de Mercedes on attacks on 4th Brigade positions," and adds that "between 0900 and 1000, we clashed with patrol units of Military Detachment No 1 in (Gramales); those troops fled in disarray despite the aerial support they received."

The report continues: "As part of our daytime actions in Chalatenango, at 1300, between Los Ranchos and El Calvario, we surrounded and ambushed command patrols and inflicted six casualties on them."

The report adds: "On 22 June, we clashed with the 3d Infantry Brigade in (La Caida), Torola jurisdiction; there are yet no reports on casualties."

"Today, 23 June, at 1400 we clashed for an hour with the Lenca Battalion in (Los Castillo), Yamabal jurisdiction; we do not yet have details on casualties."

"The FMLN clashed with the Cuscatlan Battalion today, 23 June at 0115 in San Antonio del Mosco, north of San Miguel Department. Our report states the enemy fled in complete disarray as a result of our sudden attack. We estimate that the enemy sustained four casualties."

The report further states: "Affected by demoralization, at 1000 today, 23 June, Cuscatlan Battalion troops fired at each other in Calderas Canton, San Gerardo, San Miguel Department; as a result, one of them was wounded."

The report concludes: "On 22 June, guerrilla units wounded a 5th Infantry Brigade member with rifle fire in El Paisnal Canton, along the slopes of Chinchontepec Volcano."

Guatemala

President Reportedly Ill, Resting in Bed

PA2306185389 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Very reliable sources have unofficially told reporters that President Vinicio Cerezo is ill and that, following doctors' orders, he remained in bed yesterday. According to the reliable sources, President Cerezo is suffering from (?depression) as a result of the country's current problems, specifically the teacher's strike, which, instead of weakening, is getting worse now that it is receiving support from all government workers. The reporters were told that at approximately 2200 on 21 June, President Cerezo complained that he was not feeling well, and his personal physician was called in immediately. The doctor ordered President Cerezo to stay in bed for a few days.

Civilians Called To Testify on 'Manila Plan'

PA2406225389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1832 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—A civilian summoned by the Guatemalan Army to testify on the alleged plan to assassinate President Vinicio Cerezo today expressed his "surprise" and added that "this is proof of the authorities' inefficiency."

Mario David Garcia, who was also accused of involvement in an attempted coup d'etat in May 1988, said that he was "surprised that a chief of police was asking reporters questions about a plan to assassinate the president."

"It would be best for them to be honest and admit their inefficiency and resign," Garcia, director of the former "Here's the World" newscast, warned.

The alleged plan to assassinate the Guatemalan president was revealed in early June by Hugo Arce, a reporter for the opposition newspaper EL GRAFICO. At that time, Arce implicated Raquel Blandon, the president's wife, in the plan to assassinate the president.

Blandon and Cerezo have both denied the existence of any such plan.

Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo said that the civilians (Garcia, Arce, Nicolas Buonafina, and Juan Baegli) were summoned by Army Intelligence to "give details, if they had any, on the plan" known as the "Manila plan."

Garcia told ACAN-EFE that the government is publicizing this alleged plan to assassinate the president "only to distract the public from the serious problems affecting Guatemala," and he mentioned "corruption, nepotism, abuse of power, and drug trafficking."

The Guatemalan security forces have admitted that Guatemala is the drug traffickers second "bridge" between South America and the United States. Panama is the first.

Meanwhile, EL GRAFICO reporter Hugo Arce said that he has not been officially summoned to "testify about the Manila plan."

While the investigations are going on in Guatemala City, the president is at a farm in southern Guatemala.

Police director Colonel Valerio Cardenas said that these civilians have been summoned to testify because the police have learned that they "have information" on the "Manila plan." He added, however, that "no charges are being filed."

Cardenas stressed that security has been stepped up not only around President Cerezo but also along the border and at the airport to prevent the entry of men allegedly hired to assassinate the president.

According to the EL GRAFICO reporter, those involved in the "Manila plan" entered Guatemalan territory on 23 December 1988 and have settled in a house in the southern area of Guatemala City.

Honduras

Foreign Ministry Rejects Nicaraguan Protest Note

PA2406035489 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Jun 89 p 19

[Foreign Ministry communique dated 21 June 1989]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Directorate hereby publishes a note sent to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister [Miguel D'Escoto] by Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras on 15 June 1989.

Mr Minister:

I refer to your note of 14 June in which you comment on reports recently published by Honduran media concerning the visit to Tegucigalpa of the U.S. Vice President and, according to those reports, a meeting that he held with leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa.

I must clarify to you that the Honduran Government had no knowledge of the meeting to which you refer before it took place. In any event, the meeting could be held making use of the same liberty that the Nicaraguan Embassy enjoys in Tegucigalpa to meet with whomever it deems convenient. It is the same right exerted by [Nicaraguan] President Ortega in Sapoa, as well as by all Central American presidents on other occasions, when they have met with representatives of the RN and with leaders of other groups that have resorted to violence as a means to achieve power.

I wish to point out that the only reason the RN is in Honduras 2 years after the signing of the Esquipulas II Agreements is because the Sandinist Government has not complied with its commitments on democratization and national reconciliation. In other words, a regime of intolerance in your country is the cause of the exodus of one-third of the Nicaraguan population.

Concerning the demobilization of RN members, I must remind you that the process requires dialogue between the Sandinist Government and the RN. The rest of the Central American presidents committed themselves to cooperating with the implementation of demobilization and the repatriation of the Nicaraguan fighters and their families. The Sandinist Government is responsible for the current impasse.

The heavy burden carried by the Honduran people who have had to give refuge to thousands of Nicaraguans who cannot breath in an atmosphere of freedom in their homeland is also the responsibility of the Sandinist Government, which refuses to democratize and reconcile the Nicaraguan family, openly defying Esquipulas II, Sapoa, Costa del Sol, and other commitments.

Hence, I reject your protest, which I consider unfounded, and I exhort you to stop hampering the peace process with your intransigency and to establish conditions for democracy and political tolerance in your country, so that the Honduran people can be relieved of the heavy burden imposed on them by the proximity of a totalitarian government.
Sincerely,
Carlos Lopez Contreras
Information and Press Directorate, Foreign Relations Ministry
Tegucigalpa, D.C., 21 June 1989

Threatens To Break Relations

PA2406032889 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2240 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 23 Jun (REUTER)—Honduras today charged Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto with staging a campaign of slanders against Honduras aimed at hindering the upcoming regional summit and camouflaging the lack of democracy in Nicaragua.

The Honduran Foreign Ministry issued a statement in which it added that breaking diplomatic relations with Nicaragua would be justified because of D'Escoto's "slanderous remarks."

"The Sandinist government maneuver is clumsy, because it is too obvious," the declaration states.

The statement adds that Nicaragua was trying to prevent a Central American peace summit to be held in July in Honduras, "to avoid explaining the nonfulfillment of the committments made" at previous peace agreements. [passage omitted]

Honduran President Jose Azcona told newsmen today that D'Escoto was probably following instructions from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, with the purpose of creating a smokescreen and thwarting the summit.

"If this is so, President Ortega just has to call me and I will suspend the summit," Azcona said.

Azcona described D'Escoto, a priest, as an "unstable criminal" because of his slanders against Honduras.

President Azcona admitted that Honduras has to some extent been converted into a springboard for the trafficking of drugs to the United States. However, he insisted the country is not a "narcostate." He added that his government has adopted some "drastic measures" to detect drug shipments through Honduras.

"Honduras has reacted with justified indignation (in view of D'Escoto's statements), to the point of demanding the breaking of relations with Nicaragua," the Foreign Ministry communique states.

The communique does not mention which specific measures the Honduran Government will adopt against Nicaragua, but it implies D'Escoto would be regarded as a (?persona non grata) if he accompanies Ortega to the summit.

The communique adds that "Honduras reiterates its willingness to welcome Central American presidents, with the assurance President Ortega will come accompanied by officials who have not hurt the honor and dignity of the republic."

Honduran Ambassador to Venezuela Jaime Turcios today said in Caracas his country intends to hold the summit 7-9 July. This date has been objected to by Nicaragua because it coincides with the inaugural of the new Argentine government.

Turcios added that no Central American president, including Ortega, has thus far notified Honduras of their absence at the 7 July summit. He reiterated the charges that with his remarks, D'Escoto had tried to thwart the summit.

Honduras already sent a formal protest to Nicaragua this week because of the comments made by D'Escoto.

Minister on Acceptance of IMF 'Recommendations'
PA2506034989 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Report on interview with Carlos Falck, Minister of Finance and Public Credit, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Falck] "The government has proposed in its monetary program the adoption of some of the measures recommended by the IMF in the negotiations we have been holding with that institution. One of the most important measures that has been proposed is to raise by 50 percent the value of the CETRAS [Transferable Certificates for Access to Foreign Exchange] received for exports, excluding coffee exports since the 1988-1989 coffee harvest is receiving special treatment. The new measures will be implemented on coffee exports for the 1989-1990 harvest, which begins in October of this year.

"We are also studying a list of essential items that can be purchased with foreign exchange from the Central Bank. This list would include medicine, milk, some raw materials, and some supplies necessary to keep the production sector active.

"For the time being, we have dismissed the idea of new tax measures, such as sales taxes or value-added taxes. We have adopted some significant measures, and we will continue doing this to correct imbalances and to control the economy. This is what we have always done to defend the interests of the people."

The minister was asked if the measures will also apply to banana and mining companies:

[Falck] "The measures must be applied to everybody to make them equitable, to use a word that is constantly used. We are going to regulate things in such a way that the CETRAS are properly used. They must be used to import raw material and supplies for the production sector, not luxury items."

The minister was asked if this means that the list of essential items has been reduced. He responded:

[Falck] "The essential-items system has become obsolete since the new plan calls for a list of products for which dollars would be made available, according to the possibilities of the Central Bank of Honduras."

Minister Falck also commented on a statement by the president of the National Congress, who said that the country does not have the resources to pay the 110-million-lempira debt it has with some financial institutions.

[Falck] "You know that productive activities generate expenditures and revenues. Exports produce dollars that we will use to keep the productive sector going and to pay for services. We are not going to use state resources to pay debts we cannot pay. We are not going to sacrifice the interests of the Honduran people or our production apparatus, or the means for importing medicine and milk, for the sake of making payments to international financial institutions. We are going to pay what we can, but without sacrificing the interests of the people."

The Executive Branch continues to make efforts to reach an agreement with the IMF, but something is wrong because a final agreement has not been reached.

[Falck] "As I have said, and as you have heard quite often, we are considering the adoption of fiscal, exchange-value, monetary, and credit measures to see if we can reach an agreement with them. They are asking

that we do some things that we believe, in view of our current economic situation, would be very difficult to accomplish. We do not want to sign an agreement with international financial institutions if we know we will not be able to meet our commitments. So if we commit ourselves to do something, it will be something the country can do."

Minister Falck was asked: Does not the National Congress have to discuss these measures before they can be implemented?

[Falck] "Congress has to approve bills of this nature, but the Executive Branch must propose them. You know that the Executive Branch is responsible for state policies."

In saying that the essential-items system will be changed, Minister Falck said that the main objective of the measures the government is studying is to maintain the value of the national currency. He noted that President Jose Azcona Hoyo has issued precise instructions to that effect.

Existence of Draft Letter of Intent Confirmed

PA2506021989 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Jun 89 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—National Congress President Carlos Montoya yesterday admitted that a delegation led by Carlos Flores Facusse has signed a "draft letter of intent with the IMF" in Washington and that the draft has been sent to the Executive Branch for evaluation.

Meanwhile, Flores Facusse said that he did not sign a commitment with the IMF, because that is something the government, and not a presidential candidate, must do.

"We were in Washington and signed a draft letter of intent, which we sent to President Azcona Hoyo and his economic advisers. We have solved this matter and the negotiations should conclude today (yesterday)," Montoya [as published] said.

Montoya added that the draft letter of intent signed in Washington includes the agreements to be negotiated by the Honduran Government officials and the IMF.

The draft letter of intent signed in the United States has seven points, including an increase in the Transferable Certificate for Access to Foreign Exchange (CETRAS). The CETRAS will be increased to 50 percent of the value of exports and the import tax will be established on the basis of the exchange rate of the dollar on the unofficial markets.

Montoya said that the National Congress will approve the draft bills presented to the Legislative Branch, as established in the agreement the government could sign with the IMF.

Montoya also said that failure to reach an agreement with the IMF, which he personally supports, "would require an economic analysis of the country's situation and the passage of laws to solve these problems we have been talking about."

The head of the legislative branch said that he never supported the idea of a devaluation as some sectors have charged.

"You (reporters) mix up all these terms. So, I do not believe certain subjects should be discussed during interviews, because there is not enough time and you end up writing whatever you please," Montoya concluded in an annoyed tone of voice.

Azcona Denies BCH President's Resignation

PA2306215389 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Jose Azcona today publicly ratified Gonzalo Carias as president of the Central Bank of Honduras [BCH].

[Azcona] "As I said yesterday and will repeat again today, we must have a consensus before adopting measures. Of course, we have been implementing measures with or without funds. We have implemented some restrictions on luxury items, we are promoting a law for the repatriation of foreign exchange, which has already been sent to Congress. We have even thought of expanding the CETRA's [Transferrable Certificates for Access to Foreign Exchange], fixing rates at 50 percent, because we believe that this could encourage exports, which is what we need. We must increase our exports, to get more (?foreign exchange)."

Azcona referred to measures that must be adopted to balance the country's economy, whether or not a letter of intent is signed with the IMF.

"The IMF is not pressuring us. It presents its recommendations, and we must decide whether we like them or not. If we do not like them, we do not sign. I believe that some of the recommendations are valid, others are being discussed to determine if they are acceptable."

Azcona also referred to a topic that was widely commented on today—the possible resignation of BCH President Gonzalo Carias, who reportedly has tried to evade signing the letter of intent with the IMF, alleging he is sick.

"He suffers from high blood pressure, but he is much better now; that was last week. There is no problem now."

Honduran Communist Discusses Regional Affairs

AU2106184289 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 14 Jun 89 p 8

[Interview with Rigoberto Padilla, general secretary of the Communist Party of Honduras, by Gabor Horvath: "We Must Be Realistic—Interview with Rigoberto Padilla in Budapest"—date not given]

[Text] Rigoberto Padilla is 59 years old and has been active in the Honduran workers movement since he was 18. He is also a founding member of the Communist Party. Ever since its establishment 35 years ago, the Communist Party of Honduras has been illegal. During his short visit in Budapest, we talked about the chances for Honduras and the Latin American region.

[Horvath] In spite of the election year, we have heard little about Honduras lately. How would you characterize the situation in Honduras today?

[Padilla] Indeed, only a few months separate us from the general elections scheduled for this November. As in all the Central American countries, the situation in Honduras is difficult. The economic and social crisis, the political crisis, and the negative foreign factors have a simultaneous effect on Honduras. There is a need for urgent renewal of both the foundation and the superstructure in Honduras, but this region is under direct U.S. influence, and therefore, the Communists and the other revolutionary forces must be realistic. We should maintain peace without sacrificing our peoples' right to self-determination. There are four parties running in the election campaign, and the entire left wing is forced into underground activity. However, the situation is so difficult that perhaps we will witness dramatic developments even before November. Think of the events that took place in Caracas in Venezuela, or in Rosario in Argentina!

[Horvath] What power does the Communist Party represent after 35 years of underground activity?

[Padilla] Indeed, we have been subjected to harsh oppression. In spite of this, we think that the Communists have the major party in the left wing. We have influence in the trade unions, which are the best organized workers movement centers in Central America, and we also have influence in the youth movements. We succeeded in creating a unity front of left-wing forces on major issues like the withdrawal of foreign troops, implementation of Central American agreements, the struggle against police tyranny, the elimination of death squads, and guarantees for democratic rights. This is a realistic program.

[Horvath] What are your direct goals? What do you hope for?

[Padilla] Like all the progressive political groupings in Central America, we hope for the implementation of the decisions made at the Central American summits of Esquipulas and San Salvador. We need this to make the Contras finally leave our country, because now they represent a danger not only for Nicaragua but for us. There are different opinions about this in the Honduran Army too because half of the aid coming from the United States gets lost eventually. We hope that the international atmosphere that has changed in the wake of Mikhail Gorbachev's initiatives will also help us.

[Horvath] In addition to the Contras, there are also U.S. troops in Honduras.

[Padilla] U.S. troops are constantly building airports in Honduras, and slowly the entire country will become one large airport. There is an Air Force base at Palmerola with 2,000 troops constantly deployed there. A political solution to the conflict in Central America should go hand in hand with the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Honduras. This is also the position of the Social Democrats and Christian Democrats.

[Horvath] Will the Bush administration be ready to take such a step?

[Padilla] We do not know yet. In any case, our impression is that President Bush distances himself from Reagan policy, although both the Pentagon and his own advisers have also come up with dangerous ideas. One must see that there is an extremely tense situation in the region, from Patagonia to Mexico. The revival of the Central American conflict would be a great danger. Of course, we are also aware of this. We should remain realistic: We demand only our democratic rights. The increasing national self-awareness in the entire Latin America supports us.

Taiwan Businessmen Study Investment Prospects

PA2506015689 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Jun 89 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa— Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo yesterday received a group of Taiwan businessmen who have come to the country to discuss their ideas regarding the installation of an industrial park on the northern coast.

The prospective Taiwan investors first met with Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras and Economy and Commerce Minister Reginaldo Panting, who explained what Honduras can offer them.

The meeting lasted several hours and, shortly before it concluded, Foreign Minister Lopez Contreras stated that the meeting had been an excellent opportunity to discuss the industrial park idea. The private sector was also represented at the meeting.

The minister said that over the past 2 years, several Honduran delegations have visited Taipei, including a delegation led by Honduran President Azcona. He added that this visit by representatives of 15 highly prestigious and growing industries is the result of those contacts.

The Taiwan delegation also includes representatives of the island's Ministry of Economic Affairs Carlos Lopez Contreras noted the importance of the visit and said that the delegation members would be briefed on the political, social, and economic situation; investment opportunities; and the facilities the Honduran Government offers foreign investors.

Nicaragua

Army Officers Desert EPS, Enter Costa Rica

PA2306224689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] San Jose, 23 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Today, Major Douglas Zuniga Salazar, chief of the Nicaraguan counterinsurgency services in the area near the border with Costa Rica, along with his brother, Lieutenant Walter Zuniga, deserted the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and turned himself in to Costa Rican police authorities.

A Costa Rican Intelligence and Security Directorate (DIS) source reported the above information to ACAN-EFE. The source stated that Douglas Zuniga arrived in Costa Rica with his wife, Dalila Ruiz, and daughters, Dalila and Jenny. The source added that Douglas Zuniga, his family, and Walter Zuniga entered Costa Rica by car at 0900 (1500 GMT) by the Penas Blancas border post. Because he was driving so fast, Zuniga's vehicle broke through the chains across the road at the border post.

The EPS members arrived in San Jose this afternoon and, according to the source, requested not to be presented to the press, fearing that the Sandinists will take reprisals against their relatives who remain in Nicaragua.

The source, who requested not to be identified, said the delay in releasing the information was caused by the importance placed upon the presence of an EPS security chief at the border post in Costa Rica.

Thus far, there is no information about the official reaction of the Nicaraguan Government regarding the desertion of the two EPS officers.

The military men, who turned in two Soviet-made AK-47 machineguns and four automatic pistols to the members of the northern commando of the Costa Rican Civil Guard, were first taken to Liberia, Guanacaste Province, and then to San Jose.

The source said that Douglas and Walter Zuniga are undergoing routine questioning by DIS officials and that the Nicaraguan military men had not yet decided whether or not to request political asylum.

Defense Ministry To Investigate

PA2406030889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0224 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Managua, 23 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry announced today that it has initiated the "pertinent investigations" to determine the motives of two Sandinist People's Army [EPS] officers who defected to Costa Rica on Friday.

"La Voz de Nicaragua," the official government radio station, cited a military spokesman as saying that if the officers wanted to go to Costa Rica, "they could well have obtained passports legally."

Major Douglas Zuniga Salazar, his brother Walter who is a lieutenant, and other relatives, fled by land to Costa Rica through the Penas Blancas border post.

The two officers were assigned to military counterintelligence units of the Nicaraguan Army in the southern part of the country on the border with Costa Rica.

Official Nicaraguan sources have confirmed that the two officers were accompanied in their Lada automobile by Dalila Ruiz, Douglas' wife, and their two children, Jenny and Dalila.

According to the government radio station, "It is presumed that the Zuniga brothers' action is part of a campaign promoted by the U.S. Administration to try to discredit the Sandinist revolution."

"We also presume that the Zuniga Salazar deserters were involved in a counterrevolutionary plan, and they fled like cowards to avoid being found out," the radio station said.

Obando y Bravo Declines To Mediate With U.S.

PA2306125789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1209 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Managua Archbishop Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo yesterday declined to serve as mediator between the Managua and Washington governments, explaining that one of the parties—specifically, the United States—had officially placed conditions on the dialogue. President Daniel Ortega read Cardinal Obando y Bravo's response to the proposal he made 4 days ago to promote a bilateral dialogue between the two countries' governments.

In his letter, Obando y Bravo said that a dialogue calls for a willingness on both sides and mutual acceptance. Obando y Bravo added that in light of the fact that one of the parties has officially placed conditions on holding the dialogue, he feels that for the time being it is not possible

for him to agree to mediate. The Catholic spiritual leader said: As a clergyman, I will continue to take the necessary steps to achieve true peace in Nicaragua; a peace supported by love, truth, justice, and freedom.

President Ortega said that it must be clearly stated that Nicaragua has made efforts to hold a dialogue with the United States, but that Washington quickly conditioned it on the fulfillment of the Esquipulas agreements and the results of the February 1990 elections. President Ortega thanked Cardinal Obando y Bravo for his response and added that the United States is preventing the normalization of relations through political negotiation.

Obando Declines To Help UNO Reopen Dialogue

PA2306135289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1230 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Leaders of the UNO's [National Opposition Unity] parties and organizations yesterday asked Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo to intercede so that the government will agree to reopen the national dialogue. The UNO members also proposed that the date of the elections, scheduled to be held on 25 February, be discussed by the opposition and the government.

Responding to the opposition, Cardinal Obando y Bravo said that he is a man of the church and not of any political party, stressing that as a clergyman he tries to shed light on events based on the precepts of the gospel. The cardinal also told the opposition members that they should send him their requests in writing so that he can present them at Friday's National Reconciliation Commission meeting. He also asked them to be moderate.

Ortega Suggests Late July for Area Summit

PA2406194789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1854 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Managua, 24 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today suggested 28, 29, and 30 July as the new tentative dates for the Central American presidential summit, which will be held in Honduras.

The Sandinist leader said he does not feel 8 July would be a suitable date because the region's foreign ministers will be in Buenos Aires attending Argentine President-elect Carlos Menem's inauguration. According to the Nicaraguan president, it is customary for the foreign ministers to meet before each summit to prepare the agenda for the presidential meeting.

The summit was originally scheduled for 7-9 July but was later postponed until 14-16 July.

During a meeting with owners of small-scale industries in Masaya, 30 km east of Managua, Ortega did not mention 14-16 July as the new dates suggested for the fifth meeting of the Central American leaders since the May 1986 summit in Esquipulas, Guatemala.

The Sandinist leader said that during the new meeting with his regional colleagues, the "main issue" to be discussed must be the demobilization of the "contras" who are in Honduras, a matter that should have been settled on 15 May. Likewise, Ortega said he will urge the Central American presidents to agree to ask the U.S. Government to lift the total trade embargo applied on Nicaragua since May 1985.

The revolutionary leader also commented on what he described as "the scandal" caused by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle in Honduras during his recent tour of all Central American nations but Nicaragua. According to Ortega, Quayle "showed disrespect" for Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo, and this prompted protests from Honduran student and labor organizations.

"Instead of meeting with President Azcona upon arriving in Honduras, the first thing Quayle did was visit the U.S. military base, where he met with the Yankee troops," Ortega said. "Quayle was late arriving at a reception, met with Azcona for 15 minutes, and left to meet with the contras. This shows a total lack of respect for the Honduran president," Ortega added.

Ortega Warns of Break in Relations With Honduras

PA2506180189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1704 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Managua, 25 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has warned that the United States is pressuring the Honduran Government to break relations with Nicaragua so as to increase its "aggressive" actions against the Sandinists.

While meeting with industrialists in Masaya, 35 km south of Managua, Ortega sounded irritated in light of the Honduran Government's threats to break relations with Nicaragua.

On Saturday, the Honduran Foreign Ministry issued a note protesting statements by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto against Honduran President Jose Azcona, whom D'Escoto accused of having implemented a "narcostate" [narcoestado].

Ortega said: "We do not understand why Honduras feels offended when we are the ones who were offended, not they."

"We could have broken relations with the Honduran Government a long time ago, that is, from the moment Honduras was first used as a springboard to attack Nicaragua," the Sandinist leader stressed.

Yesterday, the Honduran Foreign Ministry warned, in a veiled manner, that it does not reject the possibility of breaking diplomatic relations with Nicaragua because of what it described as "D'Escoto's dirty remarks."

Honduras "has reacted with justified indignation, to the point of requesting a break in relations with Nicaragua," the Honduran Foreign Ministry added.

D'Escoto, currently in Venezuela, criticized Honduras' policy. He said that Honduras is not the appropriate country in which to hold the next Central American presidential summit.

The head of Nicaragua said that the Honduran authorities "have offended the Nicaraguan people with their words and actions, and they have served as a springboard for the murder of children and the mutilation of Nicaraguan people."

Ortega also criticized U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle's visit to Tegucigalpa. He said that those meetings in which Nicaragua was attacked "must be denounced."

Commander Cerna on U.S. Plans Against Elections
PA2506145689 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Interview with Commander Lenin Cerna, interior vice minister, by Julio Dominguez; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Dominguez] Commander Cerna, you have presented proof of plans by the United States to discredit the Nicaraguan electoral process and destabilize the country. Could you elaborate on this and comment on the proof?

[Cerna] As part of our efforts to create and study the conditions that exist for the electoral process, the Nicaraguan Government has been monitoring the activities of U.S. officials and other people from the United States who have been involved in completely illegal advisory work. This reminds us of similar situations in other countries where such people have provided advice for destabilization that allows them, as you pointed out, to delegitimize the electoral process.

Right now, our main concern with regard to these activities is to denounce them and alert the national and international community about them. While certain activities are still in the incubation stage, they have carried out some activities, including provoking demonstrations in some departments in the country. However, other plans are still in the planning stages. Given that we know how the news agencies that respond to U.S. interests handle these matters, we wish to alert people about them now.

As a specific example, they have drafted a number of documents and given them to the opposition. First, they want to give the impression that the opposition is drafting these documents, which are actually drafted with the help of officials of the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua or with the help of advisers from the NED [National Endowment for Democracy]—a so-called foundation for democracy. Second, as part of a much broader plan, they want to give the impression that Nicaragua refuses to accept these documents or proposals.

[Dominguez] Is it true that thousands of conterrevolutionaries are still stationed in Honduran territory?

[Cerna] Exactly. As I pointed out yesterday, the situation there is as follows: The U.S. Government or U.S. Government officials and the top leaders of the counterrevolution who are in the United States, have officially stated that, together with the Honduran Government, they have sabotaged the demobilization accord. Obviously, they cannot accept demobilization, because this directly affects the strategy they had planned for this time period. Part of that strategy is to introduce by now about 3,000 very well armed counterrevolutionaries with specific instructions to actively intervene in the electoral process and in the voting by pressuring the people to not vote for the Sandinist Front for National Liberation [FSLN] by arguing that if the FSLN wins, the war would end, because the United States would necessarily have to negotiate with the Nicaraguan Government [as heard], and that, therefore, it is better to vote for the opposition.

Another aspect of these activities involves murdering and kidnapping people who, curiously enough, supported them at one time or another, what we call their social base. These people are being kidnapped and murdered because they have refused to collaborate and remain committed to the revolution after virtually 9 years of fruitless activity. Therefore, they have now resorted to killing and kidnapping these people, and burning their homes. They are also doing this against peasant cooperatives and certain economic targets, such as a recent attack on a hydroelectric plant in the north, in Jinotega Department.

[Dominguez] Commander, do you believe that the Central American presidential summit will take place in San Pedro Sula after all, despite Honduras' violation of Costa del Sol accords?

[Cerna] Nicaragua has always been ready and willing throughout this process of talks at the Central American level. The countries most closely aligned with U.S. interests have, in one way or another, blocked this process at various times. We have learned that top Honduran Government officials are accusing Nicaragua of sabotaging the summit when the exact opposite is true. At this point, they should realize that the issue of demobilization will be discussed at the upcoming presidential summit. How can they face international public opinion when they have sabotaged the accords, because in one way or another, they lend themselves to U.S. maneuvers. Despite having signed an accord in Costa del Sol, for them, there has never been a real demobilization plan for the counterrevolution.

Editorial Advocates Dialogue With U.S.
PA2306224489 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Jun 89 p 3

[Editorial: "U.S. - Nicaragua: An Unavoidable Dialogue"]

[Text] Nearly 10 years after the revolution, dialogue with the United States has again been proposed in order to normalize relations between both countries and to consolidate peace and democracy in Nicaragua.

Regardless of the number of excuses offered, the truth is that this dialogue is unavoidable and should be held. Time and history have shown that Nicaragua is not passing through a civil war, but is suffering from foreign aggression. Now that the military actions against Nicaragua have been defeated, both governments should hold dialogue to end the conflict.

The United States has used both military and political local agents to attack Nicaragua. This disqualifies them as valid participants in the dialogue because those agents are nothing more than armed instruments of the aggressor power.

Just as the military versus humanitarian aid debate in the U.S. Congress confirmed the contras as mercenary instruments, the current NED [National Endowment for Democracy] versus CIA discussion over assistance to the parties during the electoral period confirms that these political groups are outside agents completely unable to make their own decisions and that they do not represent national interests.

As the COHA [Council on Hemispheric Affairs] analysis published somewhere else in this paper points out, the Bush Administration has continued Ronald Reagan's failed policy and is bent on frustrating all regional peace efforts with a confrontation and intervention policy that gets nowhere in Nicaragua.

All Central American efforts—particularly Nicaragua's efforts after the Costa del Sol accords on amnesty, pardons, and preparation for the elections were signed—have not led to the United States' changing its usual policy in the region. Although a bipartisan agreement prevented Bush from resuming military aid to the mercenaries after the Sandinist Army defeated the contras, the U.S. President is still determined to topple the revolutionary government, this time through political intervention in the electoral process.

All of this shows that the matter cannot be settled "among Nicaraguans," because the Sandinists are the only ones in Nicaragua with a nationalist stance, and the Yankee government is the true power with which Nicaragua has to talk. Also, the United States has demonstrated that the elections are not a solution to the problem because Washington is not willing to admit the possibility that the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] can win the elections, however pure. Washington intends to discredit the electoral process so that the election results can also be discredited.

In other words, the United States views the elections as a means to achieve politically what it failed to achieve militarily. At best, it means an attempt to obtain the impossible. At worst, it is a pretext to portray the resumption of the war as legal. So the problem is the continuation of a policy that has failed militarily and that will certainly fail politically in the elections, albeit not without huge cost for both countries.

President Daniel Ortega's proposal for direct dialogue is timely because it offers an honorable way out for the United States, in light of the imminent fiasco of the Bush administration's plans. If Washington agrees to negotiate its disagreement with Nicaragua in good faith and with respect, and if it agrees to demobilize the contras for good, the peace process and the democratic process would be revitalized in Nicaragua and throughout the region.

The mediation of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, a figure that both sides can accept to facilitate dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua, would be a specific step toward a climate of pacification that would work for the good of all Nicaraguans caught between the nation and the empire.

U.S. 'Friends' May Recieve Special Visas
PA2306205189 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Jun 89 p 4

[Text] Vice Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera announced yesterday that Nicaragua is preparing a plan to grant multiple-entry visas to U.S. citizens who are friends of Nicaragua.

The high-ranking MINEX [Foreign Ministry] official provided this information when he was asked how Nicaragua's friends would be affected by the measure establishing that U.S. citizens must obtain visas at Nicaraguan consulates.

He said the decision on the visas will not affect most U.S. citizens, "who will be able to enter the country several times with the same multiple-entry visa."

According to Talavera, the decision on the visas was made to have the right and the legal grounds "to prevent the continuation of visits by U.S. citizens who are hired by the U.S. Government and U.S. intelligence agencies to nonchalantly enter the country and carry out plans to destabilize our country."

Regarding Washington's claim that there is a restriction on U.S. visas for Nicaraguans because of a "personnel shortage," Jose Leon Talavera said "this is false. In view of the current state of relations, with no economic

cooperation or trade, there are dozens of U.S. diplomats who can deal with the Nicaraguans who want to travel to the United States for various reasons."

Asked by journalists about the postponement of the presidential summit when U.S. Vice President Quayle was touring the region, Talavera said the summit was postponed because the Honduran Government is not fulfilling the commitment to demobilize the contras. "Honduras does not want to be singled out by Nicaragua as a flagrant violator of that commitment," he added.

He said that Quayle's visit to the region hampered the climate of dialogue and negotiation, adding that the U.S. Government continues supporting the most intransigent positions that block the peaceful and political solution of the Central American conflict.

The Bush administration, which initially gave rise to expectations because of its pragmatic approach to the Central American crisis, has been a disappointment because "it is not making big changes to the policy of the previous administration. Only very slight changes are seen in some areas of the administration's policy. In practice, there is no serious sign that the U.S. Government wants to responsibly discuss the normalization of relations with Nicaragua, a crucial issue for the future of peace and detente in Central America. [no end quotation mark as published]

Vice Foreign Minister Talavera described President Ortega's proposal to have Cardinal Obando y Bravo intercede so that the United States will resume the dialogue as "one more effort among others that will be made in the next few months because of the Nicaraguan Government's desire to normalize relations."

Salvadoran Authorities Detain Fishing Boat
PA2506164589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1619 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Managua, 25 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—A Nicaraguan fishing boat was detained by Salvadoran speed boats within Nicaraguan jurisdictional waters, an official source reported today.

The event occurred yesterday, Saturday [24 Jun], when the crew members of the "Georgino Andrade" were fishing off Punta Nata, on Nicaragua's Pacific coast.

The local media reported that the event occurred at a time when thirteen Nicaraguan sailors, who were captured by Salvadoran authorities several weeks ago, are still in El Salvador.

Military Intelligence Head on Casualty Toll
PA2406183489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The counterrevolutionaries' activities from 1 January to date have resulted in a tragic casualty count, according to Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock, head of military intelligence:

[Begin recording] The figures we will now report are an indication of the heavy fighting that took place whenever the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] was attacked. We have confirmed each of the figures we will now give.

The contras sustained 440 dead, 355 were taken prisoner, and 100 surrendered to the authorities—a total of 895 contra casualties. In addition, 129 members of the EPS were killed, 252 were wounded, and 24 were reported missing in action—a total of 405 EPS casualties. Also, 62 civilians were killed, 48 were wounded, and 162 were kidnapped—a total of 272 civilian casualties. In all, 631 Nicaraguans were killed, 300 were wounded, 355 were taken prisoner, 100 surrendered, 24 are missing in action, and 162 were kidnapped. This results in a total of 1,572 Nicaraguan casualties this year in the war of aggression waged by the United States. These figures will surely increase. [end recording]

Wheelock said the beginning of the joint U.S. - Honduran "King's Guard" exercise in the Gulf of Fonseca on 26 June will again raise tension in the area:

[Begin recording] We know this joint exercise will begin on 26 June. In addition, a complementary exercise has already started on the northern coast of Honduras with the participation of between 700 and 800 U.S. Marines. This greatly increases the U.S. military presence not only in Central America, but also at the Nicaraguan-Honduran border. This exercise in the Gulf of Fonseca is completely unjustified because Nicaragua has sought peace and all the other Central American countries presumably agree on the need for peace. But this practice of holding military exercises introduces tension and the possibility of war. We do not know what the U.S. Government has in mind when it sends so many troops to this small gulf.

This makes the Central American situation very complex, particularly because a C-5 Galaxy, the largest U.S. transport plane, recently landed 20 U.S. troops to drill a number of wells in northern Costa Rica as part of an exercise called "Wells for Peace." This aircraft, which can lift a payload of up to 100 tons, brought engineering teams to improve the U.S. military's capabilities in northern Costa Rica. This action and the well-known developments in Panama and El Salvador give us a true overall view of the Central American situation. [end recording]

Defense Ministry Reports 20-22 June Actions
PA2306221289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Communique issued on 23 June by the Defense Ministry Public and Foreign Relations Directorate]

[Text] On 21 June, counterrevolutionaries attacked our troops in a place known as (Yacalwas Arriba), northeast of Wiwili, Jinotega Department. Two comrades were killed and one was wounded.

On 22 June, counterrevolutionaries attacked our troops in a place known as Yaosca Indian Territory, south of Waslala, Matagalpa. We killed a mercenary and seized 6 AK rifles, 6 knapsacks, and a radio transmitter.

On 20 June, mercenaries kidnapped peasant Jose Daniel Oporta in a place known as (Amores del Sol) Indian Territory, northeast of La Libertad, Chontales Department.
Managua, 23 June 1989
Public and Foreign Relations Directorate
Defense Ministry

Contra Group on Cesar's Return to Managua
PA2406035989 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Letter from the Southern Opposition Bloc Board of Directors to Social Democratic Party Secretry General Alfredo Cesar; date or place not given]

[Text] Mr Alfredo Cesar, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party [PSD]

Managua, Nicaragua

Dear Friend:

The Southern Opposition Bloc [BOS] has been forced to issue this letter to inform you of our views on your trip to Managua and the critical situation your initiative has generated within BOS and the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] and among the general public.

As you know, our resolve to return to Nicaragua to join the civic internal opposition was based on several conditions we decided upon as a group but that were not met. Those conditions were:

1. The clear and specific establishment in Nicaragua of a democratic political-electoral process through which the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] would resolve to truly risk losing power.

2. A statement by the RN's army supporting our trip to Nicaragua so the troops could view the return as a continuation of their struggle for Nicaragua's freedom.

3. The U.S. Government's decisive support that would be expressed through a solution to the immigration problem and economic support for various plans and political activities that would be carried out.

4. A consensus within BOS on the need for us to go to Nicaragua to strengthen the civic internal opposition.

5. A declaration from the civic opposition's internal political party stating that conditions and guarantees for BOS to join the political struggle exist.

6. A letter from Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to Daniel Ortega, so those of us who return to Nicaragua will be granted personal and judicial guarantees in writing.

7. A letter from Costa Rican President Oscar Arias to Daniel Ortega, so we will be granted guarantees such as those requested by Carlos Andres Perez.

8. OAS efforts to have Managua furnish us with Nicaraguan passports and, short of this, the provision of OAS documents and guarantees to travel to Nicaragua.

9. Advanced approval by the Immigration Service for those who have political exile status in the United States.

10. Arrival in Nicaragua of four U.S. Congressmen—two representatives and two senators—representing the two major U.S. political parties on board the same plane in which the BOS members will travel. This will show both parties' support for the initiative.

At the last BOS-RN meeting held at your home in Miami, during which we studied each of the points you said had been agreed on—you personally handled this matter in strict silence—we realized that not a single one of those points had been fulfilled. You will probably remember that you suggested that anyone who wanted to return to Nicaragua would do so at his own risk. Because of this, three of the five members of the National Executive Council [CEN] decided not to travel to Nicaragua; we felt that it would be quite an irresponsible move under the current circumstances.

In addition to the fact that there were no guarantees and the conditions were not appropriate, your trip was planned under conditions we feel hurts the Nicaraguan people. The people are being deprived of many things yet see the lavish return of those who were exiled. As you will remember, the CEN had decided to join the PSD as members and we would not exert pressure for a leadership post until after BOS was legally dissolved and after the PSD assembly had chosen new directors on the basis of their personal achievements. Despite this decision, we now see that all was ready for you to occupy the office of secretary general upon your return. That conflicts with your former position as BOS president.

We are determined to continue as members of BOS. As [word indistinct] said, a group like ours belongs to no one in particular; it only expresses the legitimate political and ideological aspirations of people who have largely contributed to the struggle for the liberation of Nicaragua.

For this reason, we want you to know that you are not authorized to dissolve BOS nor to commit it to any organization.

In conclusion, the CEN urges you to express, as soon as possible and in writing, whether you wish to continue being a member of BOS or the PSD. As long as the two organizations exist, your holding two offices is unacceptable.

With fraternal greetings,

[Signed] Leon Nunez, member of the CEN

Donald Castillo, CEN member and BOS secretary general

Harold Martinez, CEN member

Opposition Says Government Violating Accords

PA2406141089 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN) in Managua on 20 June]

[Text] The CDN, a civilian opposition alliance comprising political parties and private, professional, and labor organizations, reports the following to the Nicaraguan people and the international community in light of the ruling party's flagrant violation of the Esquipulas II and Costa del Sol Agreements:

Whereas:

1. To restore peace in Nicaragua, the letter and spirit of the Esquipulas II and Costa del Sol Agreements demand a national dialogue and consensus between the government and the opposition on necessary measures for building democracy; these measures have not been implemented, because the regime of the Sandinist Front for National Liberation [FSLN] has explicitly or tacitly rejected them.

2. The FSLN government has violated commitments made in the Guatemala, Alajuela, and El Salvador Agreements by refusing to decree a general amnesty and disregarded legitimate civil liberties by refusing to make genuine and necessary amendments to the Electoral and Media Laws and by maintaining repressive laws, including the laws on the enforcement of order and public security, on the duties of the Sandinist Police, and on military service, all of which are seriously threatening civilian life.

3. Uncertainty over the date for the upcoming presidential, legislative, and municipal elections, which has not yet been set by the government and opposition as mandated by the Central American agreements, leads to fear that there might not be a satisfactory period of time between the announcement of the election results and the actual transfer of power.

4. The National Assembly's recent election of members of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] did not allow equal and representative participation by opposition political parties as President Ortega had promised the Central American presidents and the international community in the Costa del Sol Agreement. On the contrary, the past political and personal behavior of Ortega's appointees casts doubt on the CSE's fairness and impartiality as the guarantor of the democratic and honest outcome of the upcoming Nicaraguan elections. The recommendations of the Costa Rican and Venezuelan electoral commissions about the appointment of CSE members were not taken into account by the Nicaraguan Government; the government's open disregard for those recommendations reflected the ill-will of the ruling party's actions and its fraudulent schemes.

Because of this, the CDN resolves to:

1. Fully support recent statements made by UNO [National Opposition Unity] parties regarding the imbalance and disproportion in the CSE's membership in favor of the ruling party.

2. Denounce the FSLN's schemes, which violate commitments made in the Costa del Sol and Esquipulas II Agreements, and alert the Nicaraguan people and the international community to the Sandinist Government's fraudulent and antidemocratic behavior, which is jeopardizing Nicaragua's future as well as regional and international security and peace.

Managua, 20 June 1989

CDN

Ortega Blames U.S. for Economic Situation

PA2306194389 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Today, President Daniel Ortega announced that there will be no more devaluations of the cordoba in June and July. He explained that if there is a devaluation later in the year, it will be very small. He also urged producers and merchants to stabilize prices, not raise them. President Ortega made the announcement during a Face the People meeting with university teachers and students. He explained that it was decided that no further devaluations will be made after the government made estimates and analyzed public spending, revenues, and the parallel and illegal markets.

[Begin Ortega recording] This means that because there will be no devaluations in the rest of June and July, there will be no increases in the prices of fuel. There will be no reason for hikes in transportation fares. Those are the main factors that increase production and marketing costs. Therefore, there will be no reason for an increase in the prices of a number of products. This will help agricultural and industrial producers stabilize prices. This will help wholesalers stabilize prices and stop price gouging. [end recording]

The Sandinist leader said the country's economic situation is made worse by three components of the U.S. policy of destabilization and intervention. These are resumption of the economic blockade, financing for the contras, and a systematic campaign against the Nicaraguan electoral process. Ortega also criticized the position of the right-wing parties and the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] businessmen who are playing with the emotions of the workers, who are seriously affected by the economic program.

[Begin Ortega recording] The problem is really political. It is not an economic problem. Nicaragua's problem continues to be political rather than economic. A number of economic and social problems derive from the political problem. If the political problem is solved, we will be in a better condition to overcome the economic and social problems. [end recording]

Ortega Justifies Agrarian Reform, Land Seizures

PA2306131489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Statement by President Daniel Ortega; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Most producers do not agree with the position of the [Somozist] National Guard's newspaper [LA PRENSA]. That paper is trying to create the impression that all Nicaraguan producers are critical of the revolution; and we all know that this is not true. We know that the producers who have a confrontational attitude toward the revolution are a minority.

We had been warning them that we are not going to tolerate this kind of position. They forced us to seize their lands using the Agrarian Reform. We have seized the land of these three gentlemen. We have no intention of applying this to all producers. That would be absurd. We know that the majority of producers have a positive attitude. It is important that efficient producers, producers who are not challenging the government, and those who maintain communications with state institutions, continue their level of production and realize that they have nothing to fear. Producers who have a confrontational attitude toward the revolution still have time to rectify that position. Those who do not do so will face the same fate that [coffee growers] Bolanos, Cuadra, and Aleman have faced.

Wheelock on Land Seizures

PA2506172289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1607 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Managua, 25 Jun (AFP)—Agrarian Reform Minister Commander Jaime Wheelock has warned that the government will no longer continue to contain "the peasant's pressure for land" and "will increase" agrarian reform in Nicaragua with land owned by those who promote the "ouster" of the Sandinist regime.

At a meeting on Saturday with representatives of farming cooperatives in Chinandega, 120 km west of Managua, Wheelock again criticized producers who are members of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP). He accused them of carrying out a campaign against the government and calling for a "farming stoppage" in the agricultural sector.

Yesterday, Wheelock, who ordered the confiscation of properties owned by three prominent coffee growers on Wednesday, warned that "those who use farming associations to promote the overthrow of the government can consider themselves expropriated as of right now."

According to the minister, the "pressure for land is very strong" and the government will use property owned by those who adopt a "confrontational attitude" to meet the demands of landless peasants.

"We will solve the problem with property owned by counterrevolutionary landowners," Wheelock noted, stressing that there will be no agreement "with the COSEP reactionary clique."

Minister Ruiz on Inflation, Economic Situation

PA2306121489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Cooperation Minister Henry Ruiz has said that the natural cycles of the Nicaraguan economy affect the current inflation process. Our national economy is inflationary because Nicaragua is an agricultural country, Ruiz said.

Minister Ruiz said Nicaragua is facing an inflationary process caused by excess circulating cash and high production costs.

[Begin Ruiz recording] In this country we hear prophets say they hope for the fall of [words indistinct]. They say that without considering the secondary effects of an economic adjustment plan.

We must balance things out. How? By using mechanisms for price stabilization in order to control prices and our currency. That would be the main pillar of this plan, and it would not worsen the recession in the country. Introducing needed currency into the system does not necessarily mean producing more inflation.

People also tend to forget the natural cycles the national economy goes through. Because of our history and because Nicaragua is an agricultural country, the national economy is inflationary. The graphs show inflation tending to rise at present. Between July and September, however, there is usually a change in those graphs and the [word indistinct] system stabilizes. In December, the graphs show another upward curve indicating a price increase. We are currently experiencing a rise in inflation. This, however, does not necessarily indicate that severe price fluctuations, which have been common, will continue. The economic plan is fighting these severe price fluctuations.

We also have recession problems right now. There is a recession in terms of production, financing, and wages. All these problems must be solved in time. That is why, when workers have demanded wage increases, the government has correctly and sensibly warned that we must wait a little. The general orientation of the economic adjustment plan is correct. [end recording]

Inter-Connection Plan With Canada Agreed Upon

PA2406042389 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] The Canadian and Nicaraguan Governments have signed an agreement to carry out the Canadian-Honduran inter-connection project. The Canadian Government will contribute over $1.5 million to this project.

This agreement constitutes a continuation of Canada's sustained cooperation with Nicaragua, especially in the energy, potable water, and farming areas.

The agreement will be signed by Canadian Ambassador Stanley Gooch and Pedro Antonio Blandon, deputy minister of foreign cooperation.

Sweden Envoy Announces Increased Economic Aid

PA2406195989 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Jun 89 p 5

[Summary] Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan Foreign Cooperation Minister, has praised the Swedish Government's economic aid and political support for Nicaragua. Minister Ruiz made this statement following the signing of a cooperation agreement to expand Sweden's economic aid to Nicaragua. The agreement encompasses aid for development, mining, energy, imports, and forestry programs.

Harald Falth, Swedish Ambassador to Nicaragua, underscored his country's good and friendly relations with Nicaragua. Falth also noted that Sweden has already given Nicaragua $200 million in aid.

Swedish economic aid to Nicaragua over the next 12 months will include 230 million kronor for development, 110 million kronor for the mining industry, 100 million kronor for imports, 7 million kronor for the energy sector, and 14 million kronor for forestry programs. The additional economic aid was granted by Sweden as part of a coordinated international plan agreed upon during the Stockholm Conference. This plan will aid Nicaragua's economic recovery.

Italian Ambassador Departs, Receives Plaque

PA2506004789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Summary] At a farewell ceremony for Italian Ambassador to Nicaragua Franco Micieli de Biase, the Nicaraguan Government presented the diplomat with a plaque for his diplomatic efforts. Because of these efforts, Nicaragua will receive increased financial aid totaling $150 million in 1989, 1990, and 1991. The plaque was presented to the ambassador by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

Panama

Ritter Urges Opposition Commitment to Dialogue

PA2406010089 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2317 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ritter] The mechanisms and the manner by which each party is going to appoint [representatives to a national dialogue] are details that have still not been resolved. All Panama has done so far is inform the OAS of its willingness to participate in the dialogue. I repeat, we have yet to determine how it will be done, how many representatives each party will have, and where the dialogue will be held.

You are reminded that, on one occasion, some very important negotiations in Geneva were delayed because of discussions as to whether the table should be round or square. I hope that regardless of the shape of the table—triangular, round, or square—the dialogue in Panama will not be delayed by such details. Indeed, I believe that once all the parties have clearly and firmly expressed willingness to participate in the dialogue, as the government has done, everything else will follow naturally and be much easier. I believe that there has not yet been...[changes thought] I deplore the fact that today there was a public report interpreting this situation as a dialogue between the opposition and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], because this is not what we told the OAS, nor is it in line with the suggestion made by the foreign ministers when they were in Panama.

[Reporter] The opposition wants to meet with the true source of power, in this case the FDP, to seek a solution. That is the spirit of the opposition's position. What specifically does the government dialogue proposal offer?

[Ritter] An acceptance of the organization's suggestion. You will recall that the opposition has been saying that it will only talk with the FDP, while the FDP has very clearly said that it would only serve as a guarantor of a decision made by the blocs of opposition and pro-government parties.

Our communique indicates the government's willingness to engage in that dialogue between the two blocs of parties, in other words, to be a third party in that dialogue. I believe that what is needed is for the opposition to clearly state whether it has accepted the OAS suggestion, because, while it says that it has agreed to the dialogue, it denies the nature of that dialogue, which is, that the dialogue include the political parties that made up the National Liberation Coalition [COLINA]. Therefore, it is not enough for the opposition to say that it will participate; it must clearly and categorically state whether or not it has accepted the OAS recommendations. I repeat, neither the OAS nor its foreign ministers have come to Panama to impose any solution or even to propose one. The foreign ministers made a suggestion that the government feels it can accept. However, if that suggestion is rejected by the opposition or by the COLINA parties, that would be another matter. However, as I understand it, the only party that has not accepted the OAS suggestion—from what I read in today's press—has been the Civic Opposition Alliance.

Says Agenda 'Indispensable'

PA2506043389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0400 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Quito, 24 Jun (EFE)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter stated today that his government considers it "indispensable" that an agenda be drafted by consensus to establish a political dialogue with the participation of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] led by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the SENAC [Ecuadoran National Secretariat of Social Communications] has reported.

The SENAC noted that Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez received a message today from Joao Baena Soares, secretary general of the Organization of American States (OAS), in which he conveyed a note from the Panamanian foreign minister.

Ritter stated in his note that "in order to hold a national dialogue in an orderly manner, my government considers it indispensable that an agenda be drafted with the consensus of all the parties represented in the dialogue and that this agenda serve as the basis for discussing the problems of the Panamanian nation."

He added that "The Executive Branch, including the FDP, will participate in discussing and drafting the agenda for dialogue, aimed at finding formulas of national conciliation." Cordovez, a member of the special OAS mediation mission—along with Mario Palencia and Sahadeo Basdeo, his Guatemalan and Trinidadian and Tobagan colleagues, respectively—told Soares that he believes "it inadvisable to express an opinion on Foreign Minister Ritter's note."

Cordovez suggested to the OAS secretary general that he be the one to address the note to the Panamanian opposition "so that the opposition can state its stand on the possibility of beginning a negotiation process, which is the basic objective of the mission that is seeking to find a solution to the Panamanian crisis."

The OAS mission, which has visited Panama twice, was formed as a result of the crisis that ensued following the annulment on 10 May of the 7 May Panamanian presidential elections.

Nicosia Claims Opposition Blocking Dialogue

PA2306173089 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Jun 89 p 15

[Article by Cristobal Martinez R.]

[Text] Hildebrando Nicosia, Authentic Arnulfist Panamenist Party (PPAA) president, said that the Christian Democratic Party, MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], and the Authentic Liberal Party are blocking a dialogue among political organizations scheduled to take place at a large meeting on 30 June. Nine parties have already confirmed their attendance.

Nicosia said that the PPAA National Directorate yesterday approved issuing invitations for a dialogue among parties. He recalled that the late Panamenist leader Dr Arnulfo Arias advocated a similar position when with "prophetic vision he expressed the urgent need to achieve unity among all Panamanians, as opposed to the intransigent confrontation among parties with vested interests."

ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] parties have not yet named delegates to the national dialogue to which it was invited by the PPAA. This dialogue is described as "a great national effort to reach decisions through consensus and without preconditions." Only the National Action, Democratic Workers, Republican, People's, Liberal, Labor, Revolutionary Panamenist, and Democratic Revolutionary Parties have made commitments to participate.

According to Nicosia, the discussions that will take place during the meeting are part of the current patriotic effort to reach a great coalition free of partisan interests that will lead to the establishment of a democratic government free of violent revenge, demagogical lies, hateful discriminations, and unhealthy favoritism.

Editorial on Government's Agreement to Talks

PA2406031189 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 23 Jun 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Initial Step on Path to Agreement"]

[Text] The government led by Manuel Solis Palma has always shown a deep vocation for a national, Panamanian, dignified, just, and convenient solution for bringing the country back to normal.

Following that line of action, the Electoral Tribunal's ruling to annul the 7 May elections was accepted. According to undeniable documents, acts were committed that were totally harmful to the legitimacy and honesty of this event, which should have been civic but instead became a monstrous sale and purchase of citizens' consciences. Huge sums of money, in amounts never imagined, were used to bribe those who allowed themselves to be dazzled by the green sheen of the U.S. dollars.

The government, with the people at its side, together with the Panama Defense Forces, have also shown this deep vocation by proving to have the patience of Job. It has had to endure the innumerable provocations by the U.S. invading forces and serious economic and psychological U.S. aggressions.

The government and the political groups demonstrated this deep vocation through their behavior before the OAS commission that was sent to our fatherland to analyze Panama's situation, in which the U.S. aggression should have been considered as the original cause of concern.

The government has again shown its desire to resolve this crisis, as far as this situation concerns us, by its open willingness to talk with opposition political groups, within a climate of respect, without preconditions, and without unacceptable and unjustified ideas of winning. This patriotic determination is the historical first step that can lead us to a definite agreement over the differences upsetting our social-political outlook. If these talks are held within the outlined agenda when the time has come to resolve the fatherland's great problems, not only will we Panamanians obtain a badly needed climate of calmness but will again witness a demonstration of good sense by our people of all levels and social classes.

Solis Palma Seeks Assistance From Politicians

PA2306231989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2015 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, president in charge of the Presidency, at a political meeting in Santiago, Veraguas Province—live]

[Text] Ministers of state, directors of autonomous institutions, deputy ministers, Veraguas Governor Mateo Castillero, Santiago District Mayor Eduardo Spiegel Calvino, Major Miguel Aleman, head of the 3d Military Zone in Veraguas, general director of General Directorate for Community Development, honorable corregimiento representatives, honorable alternate representatives, members of the technical board, representatives for the National Liberation Coalition parties, representatives for the People's United Front, ladies and gentlemen:

I wanted to meet with you, an important sector of Veraguas Province, to begin discussing an issue I consider important, even urgent, because of the many problems Panama is currently facing.

I will only introduce the subject now. Toward the end of the meeting, I will state the Presidency's position on the current situation.

Why is it that I want you to state your points of view and indicate the manner in which you believe the national crisis should be solved in this first phase of the meeting?

As you all know, the Electoral Tribunal [TEP] could not determine the winners of the 7 May elections because it lacked the necessary evidence and documents. The TEP received only 201 of the 4,255 tally sheets it should have received, and it did not receive the voter registration books, which constitute essential proof in determining the number of people who voted at each table. Thus, the TEP was forced to annul the elections. Its decision was so clear that yesterday the Supreme Court unanimously confirmed it.

Therefore, the country is in a very unusual situation. On 1 September there will be no authorities; elective posts have not been filled because of the aforementioned annullment. Under these very unusual circumstances, it is necessary to make a decision on the path to be followed. What should we do?

The Executive Branch, the Panama Defense Forces, and the political party leaders do not want to decide without first consulting the revolutionary process' rank and file.

It is very clear to me we face a struggle for national liberation, for a stronger Panamanian nationality, and for the popular sectors' vindication. On behalf of these struggles—this must be clear—we will not surrender a single inch of the territory earned. That is part of our national dignity. [applause]

Therefore, it is within this context of not yielding, of only discussing solutions with Panamanians—with authentic Panamanians and Panamanians who believe in Panama and are willing to make the greatest sacrifices to maintain a free, sovereign, and independent nation—it is within this context, I repeat, that I seek to know the solutions you believe would lead to a national consensus and support the nationalist struggle, the struggle for national liberation.

I leave this part of the meeting in your hands. I would like to hear your individual opinions and viewpoints on how the government must react to the very unusual situation we will be faced with on 1 September. After hearing from nationalists throughout the country, I will select the opinions that constitute a consensus so a final decision can be made long before 1 September. By 1 September, it should be very clear to us what path we will follow and support come what may, because the republic comes before any personal interests.

This is the foundation, the topic, and the basis of this meeting. If necessary, after the meeting I will make a few statements regarding certain issues I also consider fundamental in this struggle. Right now, however, I am asking you to point out the path you believe to be the most adequate: a constituent assembly, a government board, a mandate extension, a combination of these, what type of elections could be held, or whether elections would be held or not. All in all, we must do what you, the majority, who have given a great deal for this republic's welfare, believe should be done.

Thank you. [applause]

Carlos Duque Rejects PRD's Expulsion From SI

PA2306184089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1734 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Panama City, 23 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Carlos Duque, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], Panama's largest progovernment political party, today described the party's expulsion from the Socialist International [SI] as "unfair and contradictory." Duque also rejected "Colombia's request that Panama be replaced by Ecuador in the Group of Eight," Latin America's most influential international body.

Duque told ACAN-EFE that the PRD's expulsion from the SI "is unfair. The party has been accused of manipulating the 7 May elections, but it is well known that the U.S. Government manipulated the elections. The decision is contradictory because, if the SI leaders are interested in Panama's democratization, they must take into consideration that the PRD's expulsion hinders the party's participation in international activities, which is an essential requirement for the development of democracy."

Duque said the SI congress in Stockholm this week did not allow PRD delegate Pedro Pereira to explain the party's situation.

In Stockholm, the representatives of the 81 SI member parties expelled the PRD, condemned "the manipulation of the 7 May elections," and demanded that "the Panamanian people's democratic will" be respected.

Duque, former presidential candidate of a coalition supporting the government and Panama's strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega, asserted that U.S. embassies throughout the world pressured SI member parties "into taking this unfair action against the PRD."

As for the possibility of Panama being expelled from the Group of Eight, Duque told ACAN-EFE that this action "undermines Latin America's coordinated policies and integration."

Panama, a founding member of the Group of Eight, has not been invited to the group's meetings since February 1988, when President Eric Delvalle was removed by the Legislative Assembly a few hours after he tried to fire Noriega.

"Sooner or later, but hopefully sooner than later, the world will understand Panama's true situation, and all those countries will have to make up for their lack of understanding," Duque concluded.

Endara Asks OAS Delegation To Return

PA2506163789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1550 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Panama City, 25 Jun (ACAN - EFE)—Today, Cuillermo Endara, Panamanian opposition leader and former presidential candidate, asked of OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares that the mediating commission return to Panama.

Endara said this return should take place "as soon as is practicable" to detail the aspects of a national dialogue among the opposition, government, and military sectors.

Endara's request came 4 days after the Panamanian Foreign Ministry announced that the Executive Branch, "which includes the Panama Defense Forces [PDF]," would participate in a dialogue with the opposition.

The opposition "was pleased" by the government's announcement and described it as a "positive reaction" to the appeals for a direct dialogue made to the military over the past few months.

Unofficial sources have said that the PDF has designated two high-ranking officers to represent it at the dialogue. According to Endara, if this is true, "it means the military is making preparations for the dialogue."

Endara has reported that he received a letter from Baena Soares on Friday. Endara did not disclose the letter's contents, but said he replied to Baena that he, Endara, considered it essential for the OAS delegation to return to Panama "as soon as possible."

The former presidential candidate said: "The country should immediately be able to know where it stands because our people have continued to suffer repression and crisis," all of which affects the PDF as well.

Endara pointed out: "No one has the right to make our homeland waste any more time."

The OAS delegation, composed of Baena, and Foreign Ministers Diego Cordovez of Ecuador, Mario Palencia of Guatemala, and Sahadeo Basdeo of Trinidad and Tobago, received an OAS mandate on 17 May to find "formulas for understanding" between Panamanians.

The delegation should report to the OAS on 19 July.

Government Denounces Remarks by U.S. Generals
PA2406011689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0024 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Panama City, 23 Jun, (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian Government called the U.S. Southern Command's transfer of command ceremony—in which two U.S. generals attacked Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega today—"a political act" to support the Panamanian opposition.

An official communique stated "that in addition to interfering in our country's internal affairs, it is an open and brazen demonstration of the (U.S.) Army's announced support for the opposition."

General Fred Woerner, commander of the U.S. Southern Command, and top officers of the U.S. forces stationed in Panama, intensified their attacks against Gen Noreiga, whom they called an "unimportant dictator."

The criticism against Noriega, head of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], were made today during the transfer of command ceremony for General Marc Cisneros, new commander of the U.S. Southern Command. Gen Woerner was also present at this ceremony.

According to the Panamanian Government, both military officers "have made fools of themselves" because their efforts to get Gen Noriega to resign as FDP commander have been a "total failure."

The communique added that "after using all their tricks—including charging Gen Noriega with drug trafficking without presenting any evidence—which did not give them the results they expected, it seems that now they are beginning a new psychological tactic."

The communique stated that Cisneros is an expert in psychological warfare and that his plan "is to insult Noriega and disseminate lies and slander to the world to see if this will bend the steely nationalist will" of the Panamanian general.

The government said: "Cisneros will not succeed, because Gen Noriega has the support of all the Panamanian people, who have no desire to be a colony, and of an armed force that admires a leader who does not say: Go on. Instead, he says: Follow me."

Cisneros said of Noriega: "Every time a tinhorn dictator has criticized me or Woerner, I have been comforted by our role as defenders of freedom."

The U.S. military chief said: "When we are called, we will always be prepared to be quick and decisive." This was an implicit reference to possible U.S. military action in Panama.

Peace Council Envoy To Protest U.S. 'Attacks'
PA2506035689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Panama will protest U.S. economic, political, and military attacks at the World Peace Council [WPC] meeting currently taking place in the Netherlands.

The report will be presented by Marcelino Jaen, member of the WPC's Board of Directors, tomorrow, when delegates will discuss the current socioeconomic and political situation in their respective countries and regions.

Jaen will give details of U.S. aggression against Panama, violations to the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, and the real causes of U.S. harassment and intervention against the Panamanian people and government.

The meeting of the WPC Board of Directors began yesterday at the Convention Center in Amsterdam and will continue until Monday.

Former Minister Rognoni Praises Cabinet Changes
PA2306215489 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2330 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Statement by Mario Rognoni, former commerce and industry minister and member of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party, in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] I believe the electoral process has suffered some political deterioration. As a result, the image of certain officials and institutions has also deteriorated. President Solis Palma is currently restructuring his government, and this is an optimistic and hopeful sign in implementing government plans that lead to an economic revival and a solution to the country's social problems.

I believe that all Panamanians, deep down, realize the team governing us now is comprised of professionals, party members who have participated in government for the past 15 or 20 years. Thus, now it is difficult to appoint someone who is unknown in Panamanian society.

These individuals are capable in the fields to which they are being assigned; they have experience and credibility and enjoy the respect of Panamanian society.

Legislators on Canal Commissions Administrator
PA2406150189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Jun 89 pp A-1, A-10

[Report by staff writer Cesar Gomez Marin]

[Text] Yesterday, Legislators Luis Gomez, Rigoberto Paredes, and Luis Navas strongly argued that the Legislative Assembly is entitled to propose the Panamanian who must be appointed by the U.S. Government as administrator of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] beginning in January 1990 as provided for in the Torrijos-Carter treaties. They also denied the United States has the right to veto the candidate proposed by Panama.

The pro-government legislators emphatically put forth their arguments and complained that opposition legislators are blocking Bill 42 with the argument that "it hides something" when the bill's goal is to have a Panamanian administer one of our major resources." [quotation marks as published]

For 3 hours in yesterday's session, the Legislative Assembly discussed Bill 42, which grants the Legislative Assembly the right to propose a Panamanian citizen as a candidate for PCC administrator. The bill was presented by Legislators Luis Navas, Luis Gomez, and Simon Quiros y Quiros and was supported by the Appointments Committee and the Panama Canal Affairs Committee. Legislator Marcos Alarcon, however, questioned the purpose and form of the bill.

Following a request by Legislator Carlos Arellano Lennox, the Legislative Assembly yesterday gave the floor to PCC Deputy Administrator Fernando Manfredo; Roberto Garcia Navas, director of the Foreign Ministry's Foreign Policy Department; and Major Daniel Delgado, member of the Joint Military Board. Manfredo and Garcia participated in the Assembly discussions at the legislators' request.

Asked about his opinion of the bill under discussion, Manfredo said the bill must encompass two processes: first, the procedures to choose the candidate, who—in his opinion—should be chosen by the Legislative Assembly; and second, the procedures by which the Panamanian Government—through its Executive Branch—should propose a candidate for PCC administrator. Manfredo added that he suggests the Legislative Assembly include the following in the text of the bill: "That the Legislative Assembly will choose" instead of propose a candidate.

Legislator Paredes did not agree with Manfredo's opinion and said the bill "is fine as it is" and therefore must be approved. Paredes added that the Legislative Assembly must propose the Panamanian candidate and that the participation of the Executive Branch or the Foreign Ministry in the matter is just a diplomatic formality. Paredes stressed that the text of the Canal Treaties does not authorize the United States to reject the Panamanian candidate and that the United States should limit itself to appointing the candidate Panama will propose. Paredes said that as of 1990 the PCC administrator will be a Panamanian citizen who will have to account for his actions before the Panamanian Government as current PCC Deputy Administrator Manfredo does.

Answering one of Paredes' questions, Manfredo said: "I am the Panamanian citizen who represents Panama at the PCC." Manfredo gave details on the work of Panamanians in the PCC and their increasing participation in PCC administrative activities.

Legislator Navas said the candidate should be proposed by a state organization such as the Legislative Assembly.

Luis Gomez asserted that the Assembly deserves the right to propose a candidate. He called for a serious discussion of the bill. Gomez said neither the Canal Treaty nor the Constitution prevents the Legislative Assembly from passing a bill on the procedure for choosing the next PCC administrator.

Citibank Authorized To Close 3 Branches
PA2306215189 Panama City La Voz de Panama in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Jun 89

[From the "Talking With the People" program]

[Text] U.S.-owned Citibank has asked the National Banking Commission for authorization to close several of its branches in Panama City. According to information obtained by this program, the National Banking Commission, through Resolution 15-89, authorized the closing of the Citibank branches on El Dorado Boulevard and in the Paitilla and Alhambra shopping centers. According to the resolution, the branches are to close as part of a plan to reorganize Citibank branches.

It was also learned that the banking commission authorized closing the Banco del Istmo branch on Central Avenue.

Solis Palma Announces New Education Minister
PA2406015589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] At the beginning of a tour to meet with technical and provincial coordination boards, President Manuel Solis Palma announced the appointment of Juan Bosco Bernal as new education minister and Professor Maritza Herrera as deputy education minister.

Both Bernal and Herrera have an exemplary record in the educational field. At the time of their appointment, Bernal was deputy education minister and Herrera was general director of the Panamanian Special Rehabilitation Institute.

New Air Panama Director Appointed
PA2406040189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 22 Jun 89 p A-4

[Taken from the unattributed "Names and Events" column]

[Summary] Azael Purcait, deputy minister of planning and economic policy, has been appointed director of Air Panama. He replaces Cesar Rodriguez Maylin.

Argentina

President-Elect Menem on Armed Forces, Debt

PY2506233489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0307 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jun (TELAM)—President-elect Carlos Menem has said he will command the Armed Forces "with a firm hand demanding its subordination to the civilian power." Menem stressed that "military men must understand that they have been trained to defend our territorial sovereignty, and that they should try to defend their own institutions by becoming an efficient defense institution."

Menem denied he had any plans for an amnesty or pardon to military men involved in human rights violations: "For the time being things will continue as they are now; we will consider alternatives later on."

Menem made these statements to Ankara television. Menem said his administration will try "to end the state of deliberation [as received] within the Armed Forces, particularly in the Army." The president-elect said he proposes "a high level of professionalization, the redistribution of military districts throughout the country, and new contingency plans to work with."

Menem said: "We will encourage our military institutes and factories to produce for our national defense, for reequipping the institution, and for exporting military materiel to other countries. Perhaps in this way the Armed Forces could become financially self-sufficient."

Regarding the Malvinas Islands issue, Menem said he will use "diplomatic, only diplomatic channels." He added: "We are convinced this is the path to success. I do not know how many generations, or how many years will have to pass before we succeed, but the Malvinas Islands will become part of Argentina again."

Menem said: "We will insist at all international forums" because "there is a UN resolution ordering the decolonization of occupied territories. This resolution and our strong and firm determination will be the cornerstone of our success."

Regarding the foreign debt Menem said his administration will propose "a grace period, deferred payments, a negotiated moratorium, and a reduction of the amount of owed capital" in addition to "an interest rate reduction."

Menem said it was "really impossible" to separate "legitimate from illegitimate" debts to foreign creditors.

Menem said: "We are not refusing to pay." He added: "We will respect our commitments and obligations, but it is essential for our creditors to understand that in order to pay we must grow and develop our economic potential."

Menem said: "Congress will decide on our debt because the Constitution clearly states that Congress must have the final word on issues regarding our domestic and foreign debt."

Menem added he could not understand how the present government "could arbitrarily ignore the Constitution, particularly considering that it was a government democratically elected by the people, within a state of law."

Menem will return to Buenos Aires tomorrow morning to meet with his family. At noon Menem will fly to Montevideo to meet with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

A spokesman for La Rioja government said Menem is scheduled back in La Rioja on 27 June.

Martinez Denies Pardon, Amnesty for Military

PY2306130789 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpts] According to Vice President Victor Martinez, there will be neither an amnesty nor a pardon for the military during this government. Martinez made this statement after meeting with President Raul Alfonsin.

Martinez said that he reiterated to Alfonsin his decision to resign as vice president and senate president on 30 June. [passage omitted]

Regarding the military issue, Martinez said that any seditious group must be dismantled because seditious groups cannot exist within the Army. However, he added that right now the president is not considering any specific measure because the courts are taking care of the problem.

Martinez denied that the next government will be affected by the military problem, although he admitted that any government is affected by various issues, should they be of a social, economic, political, or other nature. [passage omitted]

Electoral College Confirms Menem Victory

PY2306150389 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1110 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpt] The Justicialist presidential ticket headed by Carlos Menem and Eduardo Duhalde has been declared the winner of the 14 May election by the electoral colleges. The Menem-Duhalde ticket received 325 electoral votes.

The Justicialists received 24 electoral votes more than the minimum required for victory.

The electoral colleges from the 24 districts in which the country is divided met in each provincial capital and the federal capital yesterday. Only 2 out of a total of 600

delegates were absent. The absent delegates were representatives of the ruling UCR [Radical Civic Union] from Buenos Aires and Neuquen, respectively.

The electoral colleges vote count gave 325 votes to Menem, 232 votes to Angeloz, 23 votes to Alvaro Alsogaray, 7 votes to Antonio Bussi, and 1 to Nestor Vicente. The vote count for vice president ended as follows: Eduardo Duhalde received 325 votes, Juan Manuel Casella 210 votes, Alberto Natale 33 votes, Cristina Guzman 22 votes, Antonio Alvarez from the Jujui Province Republican Force 7 votes, and Luis Zamora 1 vote.

Menem beat Angeloz in Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Corrientes, La Rioja, San Luis, Tucuman, Mendoza, Formosa, Jujuy, La Pampa, Misiones, Rio Negro, Santa Cruz, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero, Entre Rios, Neuquen, Chaco, and San Juan. Angeloz won in the Federal capital, Cordoba, and Chubut. The two candidates tied in Salta and Tierra del Fuego.

Menem and Duhalde, however, will not be proclaimed until 7 July when both chambers of congress hold a joint session to count the votes issued by each electoral college.

The electoral colleges fulfilled Articles 81 to 85 of the Constitution and voted separately for each position. Each electoral college issued a document with the result of the vote count in two separate and identical copies. One copy was sent to the provincial legislature and one to the national Senate. [passage omitted]

Soviet Delegation Visits Mendoza Province

PY2306150889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0340 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Mendoza, 22 Jun (TELAM)—Mendoza Province Governor Jose Octavio Bordon today met with members of a Soviet delegation as part of a general agricultural and industrial agreement recently signed in the USSR during Bordon's visit to that country.

It has been reported at the Government House that this is the first step "towards the implementation of the agreement signed in Moscow." This agreement provides for cooperation in the agricultural and industrial sector and the supply of equipment for the food industry by Mendoza businessmen.

The Soviet mission arrived today and is headed by the first deputy chairman of Gosagroprom, the Soviet Agricultural Planning Organization. The mission is also comprised of Vladimir Nikitin, minister of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, and other Soviet representatives.

The Soviet delegation will meet with official representatives and with Mendoza businessmen to analyze matters concerning economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation with Mendoza. The delegation will also visit several agricultural, industrial, and metalworking facilities.

Brazil

Four Parties Choose Presidential Candidates

PY2206025289 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Jun 89 p A-5

[Text] With the nomination of Luis Inacio da Silva, Lula, as presidential candidate of the PT [Workers Party], four parties have held their conventions to nominate their presidential candidates. The first one to be nominated was PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] candidate Ulysses Guimaraes, 72, on 29 April. Paulo Maluf, 57, was nominated presidential candidate for the PDS [Social Democratic Party] on 14 May, and Guilherme Afif Domingos was nominated by the PL [Liberal Party] on 4 June.

The PDT [Democratic Labor Party] will be the next party to hold a convention, on 25 June, and Leonel Brizola, 67, will probably be nominated its presidential candidate. His vice president nominee will probably be either Fernando Lyra, campaign coordinator; Darcy Ribeiro, anthropologist; or some other person not belonging to the party. The period for nominating the presidential and vice presidential candidates expires on 15 July.

Sarney Cancels Meetings Due to Sore Throat

PY2106013689 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Jun 89

[By Irineu Tamanini]

[Text] President Sarney suspended all of his appointments for this afternoon to recover from pharyngitis. Complying with the instructions of his private doctor, Colonel Messias de Araujo, President Sarney went straight to the Alvorada Palace this afternoon after having lunch at the home of his son, Deputy Sarney Filho, at the SQS-111 in Brasilia.

All meetings for today were canceled, except the one he will hold with the Mozambican mineral resources minister. According to Dr Messias de Araujo, President Sarney's health is good. He rested this afternoon only to help him recover faster.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Was he running a temperature, Dr Messias?

[Messias] No, he was not running a temperature. I simply recommended that he rest this afternoon to prevent complicating his pharyngitis.

[Reporter] Can he resume his activities tomorrow?

[Messias] Yes, he will work normally. He is already fulfilling the appointments on his agenda for tonight, when he will have dinner with the Portuguese ambassador. Tomorrow he will work normally. [end recording]

President Sarney will host a dinner tonight for Portuguese Ambassador Adriano de Carvalho, who is ending his mission in the country.

Sarney Still Recovering

PY2206012689 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Excerpt] President Jose Sarney, who is recovering from pharyngitis, stayed at the Alvorada Palace today.

The president this morning received his private doctor, Colonel Messias de Araujo, and Transportation Minister Reinaldo Tavares. In the afternoon, he received Civil Household Chief Ronaldo Costa Couto, Military Household Chief Bayma Denys, and National Intelligence Chief Ivan de Souza Mendes.

Because of his illness, President Sarney canceled his trip to Pinheiros, Maranhao State, which was scheduled for tomorrow, and his trip to Paretins and Pitinga, Amazonas State, which was scheduled for next week. [passage omitted]

Chile

Opposition Groups Gather Around Aylwin Candidacy

Socialists Pledge Support

PY2306000889 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] The Socialist Party, Almeyda Faction, expressed its official support for Patricio Aylwin's nomination as presidential candidate of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. This fact was made known by Socialist leader German Correa, who reported on the resolutions of the latest Socialist Party Central Committee plenum.

Correa said that the Socialist Party is supporting Aylwin because they have agreed on four subjects that will be implemented by the upcoming transition government.

[Begin Correa recording] First, we want a full investigation of the crimes, so that those guilty of human rights violations will be brought to justice and punished, and so that the relatives of the victims will receive compensation. Second, we want the democratization of all the institutions we will inherit from the dictatorship, including its legal repressive apparatus, and we want the reestablishment of the essential rights and historical gains of the workers and the people in general. Third, we want the economic system modified to benefit the poorest sectors, to ensure social justice and to protect our basic wealth and national sovereignty. Fourth, we want to end ideological and political proscriptions and exclusions, and to guarantee the broad and organized participation of the people in national life. [end recording]

This decision, German Correa said, corresponds to the Chilean people's patriotic need to obtain a new and definite popular victory that will open the way for the effective democratic reconstruction of our country.

Correa added that the Socialist Party plenum has decided to appeal for the approval of the constitutional reforms in the 30 July plebiscite.

[Begin Correa recording] The reforms that were proposed do not reflect the opposition's aspirations for institutional changes, since the several authoritarian measures that remain are and will be factors of instability for the transition to democracy.

We nonetheless believe that the possibility of reforming the Constitution in a single congressional term represents some progress. We also believe that the lack of political support for Article 8 of the Constitution should result in its elimination from the Constitution.

This represents the end of the aberrant and unfair sentence that affects Clodomiro Almeyda, and the end of the proscription of the Socialist and Communist Parties and the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left].

This is why we have decided to endorse the constitutional reforms, but we reiterated that they represent small progress. [end recording]

The Socialist Party Plenum has also nominated a list of congressional candidates for the next elections. Socialist Party leader Clodomiro Almeyda has been nominated candidate for senator for the Metropolitan Region. Since he is under sanctions due to Article 8 of the Constitution, he cannot register at the Electoral Court. The Socialist Party has therefore organized a committee that will try to obtain the restitution of this right for him. This committee is headed by former Socialist Senator Maria Elena Carrera.

Brief on SD Resignation

PY2306002289 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Summary] Eugenio Velazco, president of the Social Democratic Party, has resigned as a presidential candidate in order to support Patricio Aylwin, president of the Christian Democratic Party and spokesman of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy. Velazco has stated this in a letter addressed to Aylwin.

Further on Coalition Support

PY2306025889 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Patricio Aylwin is already the virtual presidential candidate of the democratic opposition. This conclusion stems from decisions made in recent hours by leading Chilean socialist groups within the democratic coalition.

The Socialist Party faction led by Jorge Arrate this afternoon decided to endorse Aylwin's presidential candidacy. The decision was made by the political committee of this party by 46 votes, with 1 abstention. [passage omitted]

The executive committee of the Party for Democracy, PPD, also officially decided to endorse Aylwin's presidential candidacy. The meeting at which this decision was made was attended by PPD regional leaders. The decision was announced by PPD secretary general Jorge Schaulsohn. [passage omitted]

Aylwin 'Unique' Support

PY2406031389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2114 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Santiago, 23 Jun (EFE)—The Socialist Party of Jorge Arrate, the Socialist Party of [Manuel] Mandujano, and the Party for Democracy (PPD) headed by Socialist Ricardo Lagos today proclaimed their support for the presidential candidacy of Patricio Aylwin, president of the Social Democratic Party.

Presidential and congressional elections are scheduled for 14 December.

In his speech, Jorge Arrate noted that this is a unique occasion because for the first time in Chilean political history the socialists have decided to support a Christian democrat as the nation's presidential candidate.

Arrate not only pledged his party's support to the current spokesman for the Coalition of Parties for Democracy (CPPD), but offered its cooperation in forming the future government which, he said, will mark "an important stage" in the process to attain democracy in the future.

In turn, Ricardo Lagos expressed to Aylwin "our most loyal, honest, and decided support on this day of hope for a triumph in the presidential elections, because we are giving a testimony of maturity, understanding, and strength." [passage omitted]

Aylwin Acknowledges Support

PY2306225889 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Patricio Aylwin, spokesman of the Coalition of Opposition Parties for Democracy, has announced that he will continue to be a Christian Democrat should he be elected president of the Republic. Aylwin made this statement at a ceremony during which the Party for Democracy and the Socialist Party, Arrate Faction, voiced their support for him.

In his speech, Aylwin said that the support he has received from various opposition sectors during the past few days is a clear sign of his imminent selection as the single presidential candidate for the opposition coalition.

Aylwin added that he respects the parties that have still not reached a decision, and he also appealed to the generosity of Alejandro Hales, the only presidential hopeful still competing with Aylwin.

[Begin Aylwin recording] I want to appeal to my great friend Alejandro Hales, who has a heart of gold, lots of talent, and who for many years has proven his determination in the struggle for the defense of human rights and the well-being of the Chilean people. I have great confidence in his generosity. I hope we will all unite, and I want to say that I accept and assume this responsibility, a great responsibility. I want to say sincerely that I accept this responsibility with the humility of a servant. [end recording]

Aylwin said that he can promise the member parties of the opposition coalition that he will commit himself to the government program and that his commitment is based on his respect for the dignity of the Chilean people and his desire to serve.

[Begin Aylwin recording] To become president of all Chileans I do not need to quit the Christian Democratic Party; that would be impossible, since it is part of me. In my capacity as a Christian Democrat, however, I will be able to adopt an attitude that will be above the interests and mandate of a single party in order to serve all Chileans. [lengthy applause] I will serve Chile with the help of each of you. I will work with each of you, with all Chileans of good will who are honestly willing to commit yourselves effectively to the task of resorting democracy and to the program of the government for a democratic reconstruction. [end recording]

Aylwin added: I am certain that we are going to win and that we are going to have a government for a democratic reconstruction.

He ended by voicing his desire to give the country many years of reconciliation that will turn Chile into a just, free, and brotherly fatherland.

PCCh To Support Opposition

PY2406034089 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Fanny Pollarolo, leader and spokeswoman of the Chilean Communist Party [PCCh], has said that they will support whoever the opposition sector may choose as presidential candidate.

Pollarolo said that the PCCh is awaiting the final decision of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy before officially stating their position in this regard. [passage omitted]

Fanny Pollarolo added that the PCCh has never objected to any of the possible presidential candidates of the opposition. [passage omitted]

Independent Movement Names Presidential Candidate
PY2306001789 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Summary] This morning, the so-called Movement of Independents for Chile proclaimed Dr Fernando Monckeberg, director of the Nutrition and Food Technology Institute of the University to Chile, as candidate for president of the Republic. Monckeberg endorses reconciliation among all Chileans.

Colombia

Terrorist Attacks Cause Fuel Price Rise
PA2406014889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Speech by Mines and Energy Minister Oscar Mejia Vallejo; no place given—live]

[Text] Good evening. The general public knows the scope of the absurd escalation in terrorist activity the self-styled Army of National Liberation [ELN] is waging against the nation's energy resources and especially against the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline. This destructive and violent campaign has been intensified over the past few months, and includes the worst terrorist attack ever perpetrated against ECOPETROL [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise]. I am speaking of the assault upon and bombing of the oil pipeline terminal in Covenas port last week.

I must underscore the magnitude of these actions and the harm they cause the poorest Colombians. These abominable acts of vandalism have caused $204 million, or 77.7 billion pesos, in damages so far this year. These figures represent production losses, lowered crude oil exports, petroleum spills, and repair costs. This does not cover the ecological damage that has been done, much of which may be irreparable.

Approximately 420,000 barrels of petroleum have been spilled in our rivers and territory so far as a result of ELN attacks on the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline. This is almost twice as much as the recent spill in Port Valdez, Alaska, which has been portrayed as the worst petroleum-related ecological disaster ever. The ELN's terrorist actions have significantly affected the poorest Colombians. The harm to the state through ECOPETROL is approximately $123 million, or 46.6 billion pesos. Listen carefully, 46.6 billion pesos. This not only affects the finances of ECOPETROL and the country, but considerably decreases the tranfers the oil company makes to the government, most of which goes to the National Rehabilitation Plan, the PNR.

As you know, the PNR is a plan designed by the government to favor the neediest people and regions in Colombia. Furthermore, the losses the ELN has caused ECOPETROL by decreasing its petroleum production, reduces the priviledges the nation and the oil-producing regions will receive. This implies less resources for projects in oil-producing regions and less funds for municipal projects through a new program known as TNR ECOPETROL [not further expanded] that was in its early stages in municipalities located along our oil pipelines.

It is impossible to recover the 46.6 billion pesos in losses through increased production during the remaining months of the year. Therefore, the Colombian people are faced with the undesirable prospect of paying more for fuel. It is the only possible alternative to avoid depriving the poorest groups of vital projects for their survival, which the current administration is determined to complete.

The national government, aware of the efforts the Colombian people have already made, plans to only partially recover the huge losses the ELN has caused the country with its violence, and especially with the recent attack on the oil pipeline terminal in Covenas port.

The government is also trying to bring as little harm as possible to the poorest Colombians with the fuel price changes. Therefore, the prices of staple products will not be changed.

The ministry I head has issued a series of resolutions that increase fuel prices by approximately 10 percent. Exempt from price increases are Cocinol [cooking oil], fuel in national territory [los combustibles en los territorios nacionales], fuel for electric generators, and marine fuel used primarily by fishermen in coastal towns along our leading rivers.

The new fuel prices will help cover only half of the property damage caused by the ELN. The extra resources that will come from the price increase will be evenly distributed between ECOPETROL and the national road system.

As a result of those resources, the Transportation and Public Works Ministry will be able to construct local roads that would not have been constructed if that ministry did not receive the resources ECOPETROL transfers to the government. The price increase is necessary to provide resources to the Transportation and Public Works Ministry; otherwise, it would not receive those resources because of the vandalism carried out by the so-called ELN.

The fuel price increase does not represent major increases for wholesale and retail dealers, because the new gas prices do not seek to compensate an inflationary process but to repair the damage the ELN has caused to the country and its most needy groups this year.

Consequently, as of 1900 today, the following gallon fuel prices will enter into effect in the cities of Bogota, Medellin, and Cali:

Regular gas, 215 pesos; premium gas, 267 pesos; ACPN [not further identified], 216 pesos; kerosene, 216 pesos; industrial benzene, 267.30 pesos; aviation JP [not further identified], 220 pesos; aviation fuel, 231 pesos; and fuel oil, 121.44 pesos. The increase of fuel prices in the rest of the country's cities and zones will be similar to what I have indicated here.

Propane gas will increase by a lesser extent. It will be increased by 8 percent, and the other fuel products will be increased by 10 percent.

The press and all organizations interested in this matter can go to the Mines and Energy Ministry to request copies of the ministry's resolutions, which clearly indicate the new prices of fuel throughout the country and the complete structure of their sale price.

It is important to stress that this gas increase is only 20 pesos per gallon. The price of gas in Colombia continues to be one of the lowest in the world, with the exception only of Venezuela and one or two Arab countries. An increase of 20 pesos per gallon in the price of gas represents a transportation fare increase of only 60 centavos. Thus, the country must not expect or accept outbreaks of price speculation that lead to increases in transportation fares and product prices that are higher than the ones I have indicated here.

The moderate increase in gas prices is the way in which the government was forced to respond to the ELN's terrorist attacks. Our goal is to prevent—as far as possible—the violent actions of that guerrilla group from affecting the most needy Colombians. For that reason, the government cannot allow the ELN or any other group prevent the development of plans and programs such as the National Rehabilitation Program, with which the current government is struggling against poverty.

Thank you very much and good evening.

Government Rejects ELN Dialogue Proposal

PA2506210989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1754 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Bogota, 25 Jun (AFP)—The Colombian Government has flatly refused to hold a dialogue with the pro-Cuban Army of National Liberation (ELN) regarding oil policies and peace due to the rebel organization's multiple acts of sabotage against the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline.

"It is not worthwhile to talk for the sake of talking," Mines and Energy Minister Oscar Mejia said today in response to a proposal presented by Attorney General Rodolfo Gonzalez, who suggested talks with the ELN.

"There is no reason for dialogue with the ELN," said Minister Mejia, who reiterated that the government will not modify the policy for exploiting energy resources. "We will not do it simply because the subversives want it modified."

Mejia said that President Virgilio Barco's government is willing to show the benefits of the country's oil policy, and he denied accusations that the resource has been turned over to foreign enterprises.

"I do not think anything would be achieved by holding a dialogue with the ELN," Minister Mejia said.

He reemphasized that the organization "is sending us communiques announcing that it will halt the attacks if certain officials resign, if we create an oil council, and if we cancel the association system, which has proved to be good and just for the country."

The ELN, founded in 1960 and currently led by former Spanish priest Manuel Perez, has in recent years carried out a series of attacks on the main pipeline, the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline, to pressure the government to discontinue doing business with foreign companies involved in Colombia's oil drilling and exploitation activities.

The last major ELN attack was carried out last week against the storage plant in Covenas, a port on the Caribbean Sea. The storage plant was blown up and the pipeline was damaged, resulting millions of dollars in monetary and ecological losses.

Reconstruction of the storage plant will take at least a year, forcing the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (ECOPETROL) to build a provisional conduit for filling oil tankers. This will allow the resumption of crude oil exports in approximately 2 weeks.

Government (Interior) Minister Raul Orejuela also said that a dialogue with rebel groups that have failed to show their willingness to achieve peace "is not practical."

He said that there must be evidence of this willingness, and he ruled out any talks in the near future with the ELN, whose terrorist actions against the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline recently caused a 10-percent increase in gasoline prices.

"The ELN oil pipeline attacks have had catastrophic economic and ecological consequences, which have led to increased fuel prices, and all Colombians will pay the consequences," Interior Minister Orejuela stated.

The government explained that it will continue to adjust fuel prices, not only to compensate for the losses caused by the attacks on the installations, but to diminish the disparity that exists between what Colombians pay for fuel and what citizens of other nations pay. Fuel prices in Colombia are among the lowest in the world.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of Colombia [PCC] has expressed support for the demand to revamp oil policy and has stated that the latest increase in fuel prices decreed by the government was not caused by the terrorist attacks.

The PCC characterized the 10-percent increase in gasoline prices as an attack on the people's economy.

According to the PCC, the antinational oil policy of the Colombian Government—namely, that Colombia must pay for its own oil, extracted by foreign companies and refined on its own territory, in dollars at international rates. President Virgilio Barco's Government today designed a series of controls to prevent steep increases in the cost of food, transportation, and products in the family basket resulting from the increase in gasoline prices.

Self-Defense Chief Ramirez Interviewed

PA2206165189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Luis Arturo Ramirez, about 30 years old and the head of the Colombian self-defense groups, has finally spoken to the media. He lives in a rural area of Puerto Boyaca and is credited with the death of more than 400 guerrillas. Newsman German Castro Caicedo interviewed Ramirez for the "Special Envoy" program to be aired through Cadena 2 at 2030 tonight. Castro Caicedo will compare the views of the paramilitary and the Colombian guerrillas. In an effort to serve the country's interest, however, this newscast also presents some of the assertions by the man who signs all communiques in the name of the paramilitary groups and who has admitted he is the commander of an army of Colombians who have taken up arms in reaction against the rebel groups that operate in the country. This is Ramirez.

[Begin recording] [Ramirez] Peasants have been ordered to kill other peasants because they were not paying the assigned quotas, failed to run errands, were not delivering money to them, or failed to collect money for them. This is how they have been operating. The Communist guerrillas have been ambushing patrols and killing soldiers and policemen by surprise, although the only crime of soldiers and policemen has been to serve democracy.

[Castro] Why have you signed the most recent communiques released by the Colombian Peasants' Self-Defense Movement?

[Ramirez] I have signed those communiques in the name of all Colombian peasants organized in self-defense. We peasants are not being heard and have no representatives to speak on our behalf. This is why we have made up our minds to make ourselves heard. We want to be heard because only we know our problems. All the spokesmen we have had so far have been afraid to confront the Colombian people's reality.

[Castro] Whom do you mean by spokesmen?

[Ramirez] I refer to the politicians we have elected with our votes thinking they can be our legal representatives before the government. However these politicians seek us only at election time and forget all about us afterwards. [end recording]

Ramirez' story seems to be a repetition of the story of another man, Manuel Marulanda, "Tirofijo," but the two stories are separated by more than 30 years. Marulanda was first called "Tirofijo," ["Sure Shot"] when he started to lead peasants' self-defense groups. Because there was no safety in the country, Marulanda's groups armed and organized themselves and fought until they lined the borders of their independent republics. This is the origin of FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], the guerrillas that presently operate in more than 40 fronts scattered throughout the country.

During working meetings between M-19 [19 July Movement] and several sectors, regulation of self-defense groups was already proposed. According to the proponents of the idea, these groups are the rural equivalent of the vigilance groups that operate in cities. At the end of his reportage, Castro had gathered sufficient information to assert this.

[Begin Castro recording] If the country—I mean the government, politicians, and leaders—continues with the present trend, peace will never be achieved. The government must have a stronger personality, be more sincere, and think less that the Liberal and Conservative parties [words indistinct]. However I do not believe in them. [end recording]

Truly, if we are condemned to repeat History, today's self-defense groups will be tomorrow's guerrillas.

Paraguay

Police Use Dogs To Break Up Demonstration

PY2606164089 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Jun 89 p 6

[Excerpts] The march a group of peasants had planned for today was stopped by the police in accordance with an Interior Ministry resolution prohibiting demonstrations in downtown Asuncion. About 0900 the group tried to go to the National Congress to explain the

situation of the peasants living in Cleto Romero and Juan de Mena. For the last 3 years these peassants have been using legal procedures to get 5,000 hectares of land for 500 landless families.

Ten days ago 300 peasants came to Asuncion to petition the Agriculture Ministry for a solution to their problem. Forty of them stayed in the city and set up camp in Uruguaya Park to continue their efforts to get the land. On 22 June when they were evicted from the park, the peasants went to the esplanade of the National Cathedral. The peasants tried to march to the Congress despite the police prohibition. A unit from Police Headquarters prevented the peasant group from leaving the area. The peasants had the support of students as well as social and political organizations.

When the group tried to march, trained dogs reportedly from a military garrison went into action. There were seven dogs with their trainers reinforcing the police unit. The dogs bit several people including a reporter from this newspaper, Juan Bautista Lird, who was bitten on the hand and leg. [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, the demonstration was held in front of Congress. Some congressmen invited the group to enter the Chamber of Deputies where an impromptu meeting was held. Many people not affected by the land problem also attended the meeting.

Chamber of Deputies Deplores Action

PY2606021489 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 25 Jun 89 p 13

[Declaration issued by the Chamber of Deputies on 24 June in Asuncion; published under the headline "Text of Declaration Approved by Unanimous Vote"]

[Text] Declaration No 6 stating the Chamber of Deputies indignation at and repudiation of the violence used against peaceful demonstrators in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral.

[Dated] Asuncion, 24 Jun 1989.

Considering : That yesterday morning police forces in uniform and civilian clothes, with the support of trained dogs, repressed a demonstration of people who had gathered in front of the National Cathedral to march to the National Congress, apparently to submit their demand regarding their need for land in the districts of Cleto Romero and Juan de Mena.

That many people were quite seriously injured and had to be taken to hospitals as a result of the dog attacks.

That Deputies Julio Cesar Frutos, Juan Carlos Galaverna, Eduardo Venialgo, Carlos Duarte Torres, Celso Velazquez, and Luis Wagner walked to the area to see what was happening, and even though they showed all the necessary identification, a civilian threatened to set dogs on them. The individual was latter identified as First Lieutenant Virgilio Moran.

That the use of trained dogs to repress unarmed citizens who meet peacefully to submit petitions to the authorities is in itself a brutal and deliberate violation of human rights.

That the National Congress is discussing the issue of landless peasants on a priority basis and is urging national authorities to give a definitive solution to the matter.

That a group of deputies from different party blocs have received the peasants from Cleto Romero and Juan de Mena Districts, and other people accompanying them, in the Congress building to hear their complaints.

The Chamber of Deputies hereby declares:

1. Its indignation at and repudiation of the police violence and brutality against peaceful demonstrators in front of the National Cathedral.

2. The urgent need to order an investigation of the incident to find out who is responsible for it, and the need to punish them as established by the law.

3. Its rebuff to 1st Lt Virgilio Moran for his arrogant lack of respect and his disregard for the priveleges of the people's representatives.

4. The need to speed up a court decision on the writ filed against an IBR [Agrarian Reform Institute] resolution asking the executive branch to decree the occupation of certain lands in Cleto Romero and Juan de Mena Districts.

5. That it has named a special delegation to communicate this declaration to the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the members of the legistalive branch.

6. Record it, let it be known, and file it.

[Signed] Eugenio Sanabria C., Chamber Secretary; Miguel Angel Aquino, president.

Generals Under Arrest To Be Released

PY2406222489 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Jun 89 p 10

[Excerpts] General Eumelio Bernal Gimenez, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, said yesterday at Government House that the generals of the previous regime who are still under arrest will be released. He said that they will go to their homes to wait for instructions.

Gen Bernal Gimenez held a meeting with President Andres Rodriguez at Government House yesterday morning.

Upon leaving Government House he told reporters that most of the generals of the previous regime who had been arrested are already at home. [passage omitted]

Regarding General Gerardo Johannsen, Francisco Ruiz Diaz, and Alcibiades Soto Velleau who are being held at the Recruting and Mobilization Center, Bernal said: "They are about to go to a new destination."

Asked if that means exile, Bernal said: "No, they are going home, on a kind of parole." [passage omitted]

Peru

AP Asks Vargas Llosa To Reconsider Candidacy

PY2506191889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Excerpt] A plenary meeting of the Popular Action Party [AP] agreed today to increase the powers of former President Fernando Belaunde Terry and to suspend the activities of the Democratic Front [FREDEMO] until Mario Vargas Llosa returns to Peru.

The AP plenary meeting took place today. The objective of this meeting was to evaluate the actions of the AP since it was founded. The meeting agreed to suspend the activities of the FREDEMO until Mario Vargas Llosa returns from Europe. The plenary meeting stated its hope that the former presidential candidate will reconsider his decision and will reassume the civic duty that was entrusted to him in Arequipa on 4 June when the FREDEMO announced its presidential slate. [passage omitted]

Soldiers Kill 71 Terrorists in Various Operations

PY2306215389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1837 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Lima, 23 Jun (EFE)—Soldiers have killed 71 Shining Path terrorists in various operations in Parinacochas Province, Ayacucho Department.

In the last 15 days four military patrols carried out "Operation Chavina 89" in Parinacochas Province. The operation was organized by the Political-Military Command of the Emergency Zone under the command of General Howard Rodriguez.

The Lima dailies EL COMERCIO and EXPRESO reported today that military patrols killed 21 Shining Path members in various operations in addition to 50 more who belonged to "local committees."

The reports also indicate that the "local committees" are made up of people who support Shining Path terrorists in their attacks, sabotage, and murder.

The patrols dismantled 15 "committees" and reestablished authority in zones Shining Path terrorists had labeled "liberated."

According to a military spokesman quoted by EL COMERCIO, the clashes were violent and the terrorists were taken by surprise. He said the soldiers seized large-caliber weapons, home-made bombs, and dynamite.

EXPRESO, which published pictures of the confiscated weapons and of bodies of alleged Shining Path members, also indicated that the forces seized recordings which the terrorists planned to broadcast over a radio station.

Since Shining Path began its violent action in 1980, political violence has caused 14,000 deaths and material losses estimated at $10 billion.

Shining Path Kills Four in Cajatambo Province

PY2406211689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2013 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Lima, 24 (EFE)—Alleged members of the Shining Path have killed three peasants and a teacher in Lunumia, a village in Cajatambo Province, Lima Department.

According to the metropolitan daily EL COMERCIO, a column of some 30 Shining Path members entered Lunumia, forced three peasants and the teacher out of their homes, and shot them dead.

The residents of the small village explained that the four had previously received death threats from the terrorists.

Since the political violence began in Peru, in May 1980, 14,000 people have died. Damage from terrorist actions amount to $10 billion.

Ministry Issues Communique on Plane Crash

PY2306033089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The Defense Ministry, through the Peruvian Air Force, FAP, tonight issued an official communique on yesterday's plane accident. The communique reads as follows:

The Defense Ministry, through the FAP, informs the public that:

First: On Wednesday, 21 June, an FAP C-115 plane on a civic action flight on the Pucalpa-Sepagua-Atalaya-Satipo- San Ramon-Lima route, crashed at approximately 1740 on the last leg of its flight, near Huasohuashi, not far from the city of Tarma.

Second: As consequence of this deplorable accident, all crewmen and passengers of that plane were killed. Sixty bodies have been recovered and 42 have been identified.

Third: The FAP has ordered an investigation to determine the cause of the accident.

Lima, 22 June 1989

[Signed] Director General of Information of the Air Force of Peru.

Government Creates Joint Committee With ROK

PY2206175189 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1115 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Summary] Peru and the ROK have signed an agreement creating the Peruvian-Korean Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation. This committee will analyze the current and future agreements to be implemented between the two countries; and recommend the necessary action for the intensification of mutual cooperation. This committee will meet every year alternating between Peru and the ROK.

Uruguay

Argentine President-Elect To Visit 25 June

PY2306124389 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] It has been confirmed that Argentine president-elect Carlos Saul Menem will visit Uruguay on 25 June. Menem will arrive at the Carrasco airport at 1130 and will immediately go to the presidential residence where he will meet with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Menem, who will be accompanied by his Foreign Minister and a 25-person entourage, will then hold a news conference.

January-May Trade Surplus Exceeds $105 Million

PY2206024489 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Summary] The Bank of the Republic has reported that from January to May 1989, the Uruguayan trade surplus was more than $105 million. Exports during this period were 9.9 percent higher than exports during the same period in 1988, and imports were 11.9 percent higher.

Official figures on trade with Brazil from January to April 1989 show that our exports to that country increased by 80.3 percent. Trade with Argentina, however, is unfavorable because Argentina is not interested in Uruguayan products. As a result, our negative balance increased by 119 percent.

Government Closes Borders To Stop Contraband

PY2406184789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0927 GMT 24 Jun 89

[By Jorge Figueroa]

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 24 Jun (EFE)—Contraband, recently the most flourishing industry in Uruguay, will be put to the test by the government's decision to close the borders with Argentina and Brazil in an effort to try and stop this crime.

Since the neighboring countries began having economic problems, their respective currencies, the Argentine austral and the Brazilian cruzado have started losing value in relation to the new Uruguayan peso.

Initially the loss of value was slow; however, as the crises worsened the loss of value increased, especially for the austral, and it became more and more convenient for Uruguayans to go shopping and sightseeing in Argentina.

The flow of Uruguayans to Buenos Aires has become overwhelming during the past few weeks, which has resulted in the selling out of transportation tickets, shortages of hotel bookings, and the massive purchase of all sorts of items.

The so-called "piecemeal contraband" [contrabando hormiga] grew, including foodstuffs, clothing, cosmetics, and even electric appliances.

Thousands of Uruguayans traveled to Buenos Aires, attracted by advertisements published in the Uruguayan media on prices of hotels, restaurants, and stores. [passage omitted]

Daily Power Cuts To Be Extended 3 Hours

PY2406192689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0438 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Montevideo, 23 Jun (EFE)—The National Administration of State Electric Power and Transmissions [UTE] today decided that beginning Monday, 26 June, the timetable of the power cuts in cities nationwide will be extended from 3 to 6 hours due to the drought affecting operations in hydroelectric dams.

There have been 3-hour power cuts the last 2 weeks in Montevideo neighborhoods, where half of Uruguay's 3 million people live. All Uruguayan cities have experienced similar cuts.

Authorities have said that the drought in the Uruguay River basin, where the Argentine-Uruguayan Salto Grande hydroelectric dam is located, and in the Negro River basin, where three power plants are installed, has compelled them to extend the timetable of the power cuts.

In Uruguay, 96 percent of the electricity is produced by hydraulic power.

In the last 15 months, the country has suffered its worst drought in history. According to UTE sources, an uninterrupted rainfall of at least 150 mm is needed to overcome the situation.

Power from thermoelectric plants is not sufficient to replace the output of the hydroelectrical ones, and the increase of power consumption during the austral winter (June-September) has made it necessary to extend the timetable of the cuts.

15 Jun Strike Paralyzes Banks, Schools

PY1506171789 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0258 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Montevideo, 11 Jun (TELAM-ANSA)—A 24-hour strike carried out today by state employees in demand of better salaries has practically paralyzed all activities in Uruguayan official institutions. Meanwhile, the Sole Central Organization of Workers has ratified the call for a 24-hour general strike on 27 June.

The strike today paralyzed the four official banks (the Central Bank, the Bank of the Republic, the Mortgage Bank, and the Bank of Insurance) and all public schools (elementary, high school, and state universities). The strikers reject a project to privatize state enterprises and demand a 30-percent salary increase as of 1 July.

Economy and Finance Minister Ricardo Zerbino has stated that it is impossible to give a 30-percent increase because it would create an inflationary process, while the PIT-CNT [Inter-Union Workers Plenum-National Workers Command] continues to brush up on the details for the 27 June general strike to oppose the government's economic policy.

Venezuela

President Perez Criticizes Rich Countries

PA2206161289 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] In opening the Group of 77 ministers' meeting, President Carlos Andres Perez said it is necessary to launch a new strategy with a harder negotiating line, to reopen the dialogue with the industrialized countries, a strategy that will serve as the group's guideline in the 1990's.

President Perez pointed out the group's cohesion, but strongly deplored the time lost in the 1980's. He said that the group's objectives are, basically, international justice and a new international economic order. He emphatically pointed out that while developing countries must be prepared to make structural changes to strengthen their economies, rich countries must also assume their responsibilities.

[Begin Perez recording] The southern countries are urged to tighten their belts—something that is easily said—while countries to the north base their prosperity on very large, positive fiscal and economic balances produced at the expense of the rest of the world. [end recording]

Perez also referred to the need to expand the scope of the Group of 77 to include social, political, and cultural aspects, as well as the role that development policies play both in the North and the South to promote viable and lasting international relations.

[Begin Perez recording] Either formal or informal systematic and continuous technical support from all member countries can no longer be postponed if the Group of 77 wants to safeguard its effectiveness and importance. I have always said it is necessary to create a Group of 77 secretariat or a developing countries secretariat to provide continuity for actions we have initiated that are lost along the way. [end recording]

The meeting will conclude Friday. The next meeting will take place in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, on 31 July. The Follow-Up Commission of the Group of 77 will meet on that occasion.

Perez Denies 'Crisis' in Military High Command

PA2106225189 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez stated today that there is no restlessness among Venezuela's high-ranking military commanders. Perez made this statement when questioned minutes ago by journalists before he participated in opening ceremonies at the Group of 77 meeting.

The head of state downplayed press reports about a possible crisis in the military high command after General Jose Maria Troconis Peraza resigned because he was not appointed defense minister.

[Begin recording] [Perez] Maybe Gen Troconis Peraza decided to retire. He is a great officer and, if that is what he wants, I shall accept it. I talked with him and I think you offend him when you say that he decided to retire because he was not appointed defense minister. That is not the explanation he would give. He is an officer worthy of being considered for that position. These things happen normally in all democratic countries, so there is nothing more to say on the issue. The press reports are only groundless speculation.

[Reporter] Mr President, the executive branch is expected to appoint its representative to the Judicial Council today.

[Perez] Yes, sir.

[Reporter] Who will that representative be?

[Perez] The newspaper will tell you. [end recording]

Finance Minister Discusses Monetary Policy

PA2206033389 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Finance Minister Eglee Iturbe de Blanco this morning was guest speaker at the Venezuelan Executive Association conference. She discussed various aspects of the country's economic situation in a speech entitled: Implications and Scope of Economic Policies.

Iturbe de Blanco was invited to address the conference because of her broad experience, her role in implementing the current administration's economic policies, and because of the pace those policies have set for the country's development.

After her speech, the finance minister discussed the 6-percent fiscal deficit, which in monetary terms represents approximately 65 billion bolivares. She also discussed the mortgage subsidy issue:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Minister, why is there a delay in the monetary policy adjustment program?

[Iturbe de Blanco] There is no delay; we are following a schedule.

[Reporter] Are judicial matters influencing the discussion currently under way regarding interest rates?

[Iturbe de Blanco] No, they are not. We simply have been rigid with the interest rates because they cannot be freely established on the market, and the Central Bank must review them every week.

[Reporter] Minister, when will the state pay the banks the subsidies for the 1st quarter of 1989?

[Iturbe de Blanco] We are working out the mortgage subsidies with the banks. We have an initial list of beneficiaries, which the Finance Ministry is comparing against lists of registered homes. I believe that by July, as soon as Congress approves the additional credit requested, these payments will begin to flow to the savings and loans system and the mortgate system. [end recording]

Guyana

President Hoyte Optimistic of U.S. Aid

FL2206231889 Bridgetown CANA in English 2301 GMT 22 Jun 89

[By Wesley Kirton]

[text] Washington, D.C., June 22, CANA—Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte is optimistic that his country will continue to receive United States assistance for its programme of economic reconstruction.

Hoyte told CANA in an exclusive interview here that his meeting with Secretary of State James Baker III focused primarily on Guyana's economic recovery programme and the American participation in the process.

"I raised with Mr. Baker the possibility of further American involvement in our recovery programme. The meeting was very cordial and constructive and the responses I received were very positive. I do think that the Americans will continue to assist us in this very difficult period of economic reconstruction, of course provided we help ourselves," President Hoyte said.

On the question of continuous criticism about free and fair elections in Guyana, Hoyte said opposition leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan had failed to be specific about in what ways the 1985 elections were not free and fair.

"There's been a lot of parrot talk about free and fair elections. Jagan has, from the time he entered into politics in 1948 alleged that every election was rigged or unfairly conducted, even those elections that he won," he remarked.

"Certainly nobody can say that there aren't free elections in Guyana, so one has to focus on the fairness of elections and in order to meet his concerns I proposed to him that I would do a number of things which I did—that is to abolish overseas votes, restrict severely the proxy vote and abolish postal voting," the Guyanese leader explained.

Hoyte said opposition parties were given extended time to examine the voters list in 1985 and could not find any padding in the list.

"All that was left to ensure that there was no possibility of tampering with the results was for the opposition parties to ensure that they accompany the ballot boxes to the central places of count," he said.

"One hour before the ballots were closed the PPP [People's Progressive Party] decided they weren't going to do that. Now, people make democracy work and if they are not prepared to carry out their responsibilities and obligations they will be always in a position to shout about unfairness when they lose," President Hoyte remarked.

Hoyte, a black, also addressed claims he is racist.

"I'm not a racist. And it's no good anybody looking to me to pursue any racist policies. I do not look at people to see whether they are of Indian, African or Portuguese decent—all I see before me are Guyanese.

"I will advance any Guyanese who is competent, who is loyal and who is willing to work for his country. There is no validity in any allegation that I'm favouring one ethnic group over another. I happen to be a president who is black but I'm not a president for black people. I'm president of Guyana and therefore president of the Guyanese people," Hoyte pointed out.

About the question of emphasis on the ruling People's National Congress role in the country, he said the base of political power in the Guyana system is the party and the party has got to be made as strong as possible.

"But I do insist that the party is not the government. There is a clear distinction," the president said.

Asked about a possible date for elections, due by the end of 1990, Hoyte said he had not thought of any particular date. "I have a lot of work to do on the economic front and it seems to me more useful and advantageous to spend my time dealing with the economic problems, trying to get the economy stimulated rather than to be thinking about an election date."

Hoyte said the unrest which followed the introduction of the budget had now subsided.

"The workers are back at work, the strikes are over. Undoubtedly the measures we introduced are austere. I think we didn't do too badly, we didn't have riots, public disorder, certainly we had no deaths and certainly there was no conflict between the people and the security forces," Hoyte said.

The Guyanese president left here Thursday for Chicago at the head of an investment promotion mission. Before leaving Washington, he held telephone discussions with Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles who is also here.

Hoyte will leave the U.S. at month-end and travel directly to Grenada for the meeting of Caricom heads of government.